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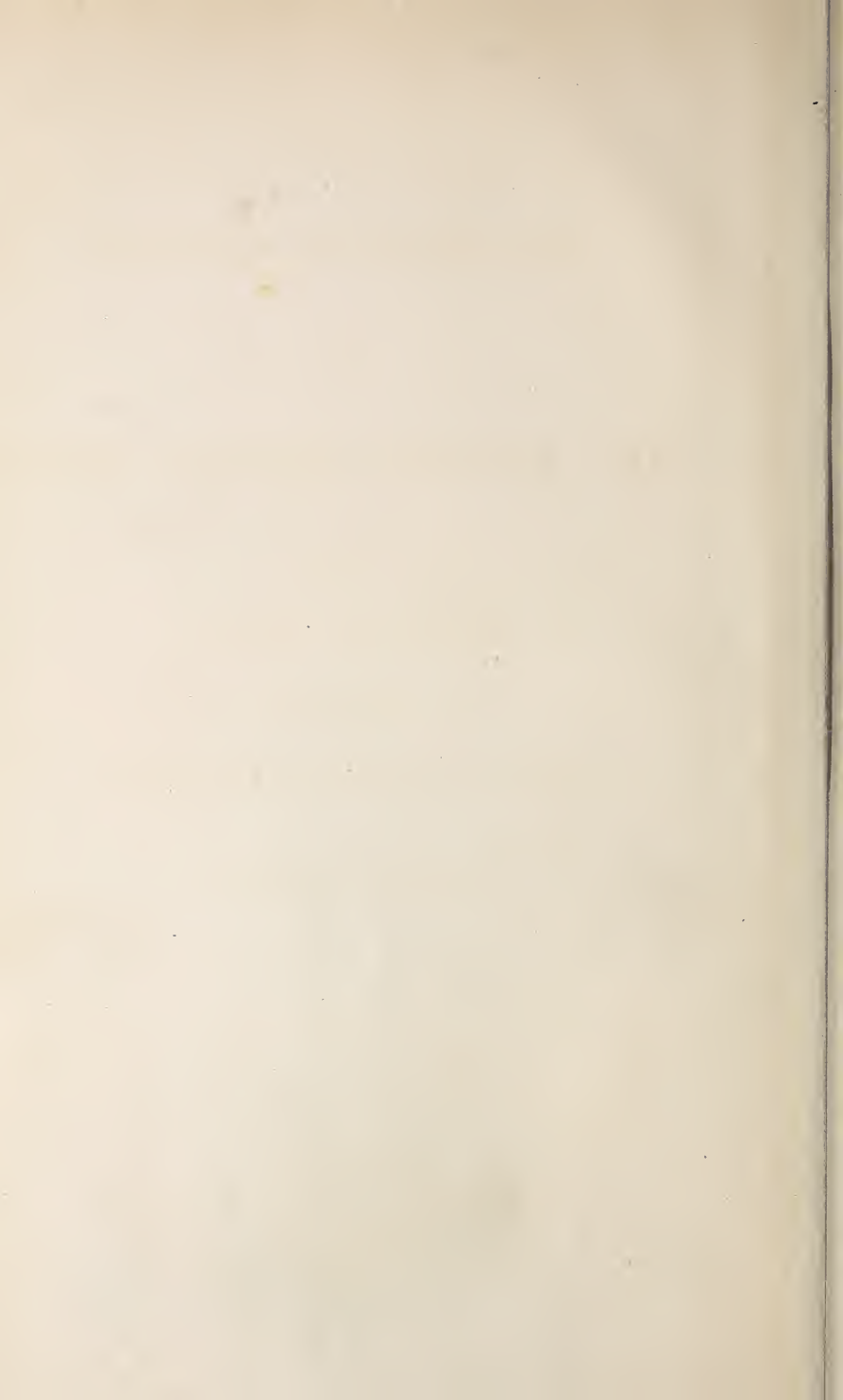
The Documentary history of  
the Protestant Episcopal  
Church in the Diocese of  
Vermont.



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## PREFACE.

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THE work now presented to the public was undertaken in pursuance of a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Vermont. At first it was contemplated to prepare simply an edition of the Journals of that body from 1790 to 1832. The Rev. C. R. Batchelder, the Rev. George B. Manser, D. D. and the Rev. Albert H. Bailey, D. D. were appointed a committee to do this work. It soon became obvious to this committee that a publication of the meager Journals of the Convention would not do much to elucidate the history of the Church in Vermont. Under these circumstances, it was thought best to use the various material in hand, and quite liable to be lost, in the form of notes for the purpose of illustration.

The greater part of the work was done before the death of Dr. Manser and was approved by him. Since that time the other members of the committee have been able to add some matter of value.

This work has been done in the interest of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont. The committee are conscious that it is, in many respects, imperfect. Those who may glean the same field, when they shall have passed away, may add some things of importance and correct some mistakes. They have their reward in the reflection that they have gathered material for a future history and thus have contributed something for the benefit of the Church of the living God.

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A complete INDEX to this volume will be found at the end of the same.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE Publishers of this work deem it necessary, on account of the exceeding modesty of its compilers, to add, to the few words contained in the Preface, further words of their own, explanatory of its design and merits.

ITS DESIGN is to rescue and keep from oblivion most important and interesting information concerning the early establishment of the CHURCH in the DIOCESE OF VERMONT. So much might be gathered from the Preface and Title Page.

But that is by no means the whole story. *The Facts and Documents contained in this volume are of interest and value to every Churchman throughout the United States.* The early Journals, contained in it, which have never before been published, are of the most meager character; but the patient research of our Compilers has brought to light Letters and Papers which seem not only to supply the defects in the Journals, but also to bring out all the important facts, and to illustrate even the *character of the men* who figured in those early days of our Church's history in this country.

These important and interesting papers can be found *collected* nowhere else. The labor of collecting and arranging them has been a labor of love—for the Church's sake—the Compilers looking for no other reward than the consciousness of having done it for the sake of their dear mother—The Church of the Living God.

Consequently, just so soon as the sale of a sufficient number of copies to guaranty the expense of publication was secured, the manuscript was committed to the press.

The Publishers, in common with all Churchmen who have seen the manuscript, are unwilling that the circulation of the volume should be confined to the few who have subscribed. Arrangements have therefore been made, by which those who have had no opportunity to become acquainted with the design of publishing such a book may still supply themselves by timely application.

Observe, we say *timely*. No owner of a copy will ever be induced, by anything but necessity, to sell it, after having once read it; and when the few extra copies are taken up, the opportunity for securing one is lost, probably, forever, as the work is not stereotyped.

It is the object, therefore, of this advertisement to say that, until the entire edition is exhausted, the publishers will fill orders as fast as received, provided they are accompanied by the money, and it is inserted here, that persons seeing the book and the advertisement together may have no excuse, if they wish for it, for neglecting the only measure for obtaining it.

# JOURNAL.

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1790.

ARLINGTON, Sept. 1790.

Clerical and Lay Deputies :

ARLINGTON:

ZADOC HARD,	CALEB DAYTON,
NATHAN CANFIELD,	LUTHER STONE.

SANDGATE:

Rev. JAMES NICHOLS,	SETH BRISTOL,
ABRAHAM BRISTOL,	ENOCH BASSET.
ELIHU ANDREWS,	

MANCHESTER:

Rev. DANIEL BARBER,	NATHAN SMITH,
MARTIN POWEL, Esq.,	JABEZ HAWLEY.
JOB GIDDINGS,	

PAWLET:

EBENEZER COBB,	HENRY WOOSTER.
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WEATHERSFIELD:  
JESSE GILBERT.

DORSET:

ELEAZER BALDWIN.

HINESBURGH:

ANDREW BURRET, Esq.

TINMOUTH:

ELISHA HAMILTON.

The Convention met at the Church: the Rev. Daniel Barber read prayers and the Rev. James Nichols preached a sermon.

The Convention adjourned to meet again at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met at 2 o'clock, P. M. and adjourned to the dwelling-house of Luther Stone, Esq., and proceeded to business.

Mr. Eleazer Baldwin was chosen Chairman and Rev. Daniel Barber, Secretary.

A letter from the Rev. Thomas Elison of Albany was read.

The Convention requested Messrs. Giddings and Todd to endeavor to obtain an Act of the Legislature for the purpose of securing to the Church the possession of their Lands.

Ordered, That the thanks of the Convention be properly returned to the Rev. Thomas Elison, for his friendly letter.

Resolved, That the Rev. Thomas Elison be requested to preach at the opening of the next Convention.

Adjourned sine die.

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The Lands contemplated in the action of this Convention were those reserved in "The New Hampshire Grants," made by Benning Wentworth, the Governor of that Province, subsequent to 1741. "The whole number of Grants amounted to one hundred and thirty-eight; and their extent was from Connecticut River to what was esteemed twenty miles east of Hudson's River, so far as that extended to the northward; and after that as far west as the eastern shore of Lake Champlain." Williams' Hist. Vt. vol. ii, c. i.

"In the Grants of land that were made by Gov. Wentworth, there were three rights in each township, reserved for religious purposes. One to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts; one for a Glebe, designed for the use of an Episcopal Clergy; a third for the first settled Minister, intended for his private property to encourage the settlement of a Minister in the new plantations." Williams' Hist. Vt., vol. ii, c. x.

The Reservations in these Grants were made in the following form and words: "His Excellency Benning Wentworth, Esq., a tract of land containing five hundred acres, as marked, B. W. in the plan, which is to be accounted two of the within shares; One whole share for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of



the Gospel in Foreign Parts; One share for a Glebe for the Church of England as by law established; One share for the first settled Minister of the Gospel; One share for the benefit of a School in said town."

"Province of New Hampshire"—date—"recorded in the Book of Charters, page"——.

"THEODORE ATKINSON, Sec'y."

Thompson's Vermont, Part II, p. 224.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts took an early and proper notice of these Grants. "The proceedings on the 16th of July 1762 and the 16th of March 1764, show an acceptance of the donation; and a resolution that agents be appointed to take charge of the patents and warrants for the land, and for such other purposes as the interests of the society may require."

"At a meeting of the Society held December 17, 1773, the Society agreed, that it be recommended to the Society to empower Mr. Cossitt to see that justice be done to the Society, in the allotment of Glebes, etc., in New Hampshire."

"The Society resolved to agree that a letter of attorney be sent to the Governor of New Hampshire, empowering Mr. Cossitt to act in behalf of the Society with regard to these lands, and leaving blanks for persons whom the Governor may think proper to insert."

"On the 20th of May 1785, a report was made to the Society relative to their lands, and the meeting resolved, that the Secretary do write to some one or more members of the Church of England in each of the States of America, in which the Society has any property, to take all proper care in securing said property; and further to inform such persons that it is the intention of the Society to make over all such property to the use of the Episcopal Church in that country, in whatever form, after communication with the several governments, shall appear to be most effectual for that purpose." Peters' Reports, vol. iv, pp. 482, 483.

Applications to the Propagation Society, for the conveyance of its lands in Vermont, had been made, by parties not now known, before the Meeting of the Convention at Arlington. These were rejected by the Society in May 1790. Peters' Rep. vol. iv, p. 483.

In June 1785 the Legislature of Vermont held an adjourned Session at Norwich. On the 10th day of June, a Memorial, signed by John Wheelock, Esq., President of Dartmouth College and Moor's Charity School, praying, in behalf of said Institution, for a grant of land, was presented, read, and referred to a Committee of three on the part of the House to join a Committee of the Council, "to take the same under consideration, and report their opinion to this House." On the part of the House, Col. Stephen R. Bradley of Westminster, Maj. Elisha Burton of Norwich and Samuel Knight, Esq. of Brattleborough, were chosen. *Journal 1785*, p. 26.

On the 11th of June, the above named Committee brought in a report, signed by Jonas Fay of the Council, recommending in consideration of the importance of Dartmouth College "to mankind universally, and to this Commonwealth in particular," and of "the patriotic display of benevolence by the President, in his indefatigable exertions to diffuse all the benign influence of the institution through this State," the grant of 23,040 acres of land, "to be to the use and benefit of the same forever." This report being read and accepted, it was ordered, That the Petitioner have leave to bring in a Bill accordingly. *Journal 1785*, pp. 29, 30.

Tuesday, June 14th. "A Bill, entitled, An Act granting 23,040 acres of land to the Trustees of Dartmouth College, and the President of Moor's Charity School, to and for the use of said College and School, was brought in, agreeable to order, read, and accepted, and sent to the Governor and Council for perusal and proposals of amendment." *Journal 1785*, p. 34.

The Act, the title of which is given above, may be seen in Vermont State Papers, p. 497.

In pursuance of this Act, a Charter was issued by Governor Chittenden, dated June 14th, 1785, for a tract of land six miles square. This Grant was named Wheelock, and is situated in Caledonia County. Vermont State Papers, 497.

"The readiness with which so important a grant had been made to Dartmouth College, stimulated Dr. Wheelock to attend the next session of the Legislature, in October of the same year, to ask for a further and still larger one. The Legislature was then sitting at Windsor. An anonymous article appeared in the Vermont Journal, a newspaper published in that place, intended to

drive the Doctor from the ground, and to excite in the minds of the members a suspicion, at least, that the future wants of their own State might better receive their attention. The effect was favorable." *Am. Quar. Reg.*, vol. xiii, p. 394.

"The scheme of making Vermont in a further degree subsidiary to Dartmouth College, was not relinquished, and came up at the October session of the next year, 1786, in a new and very imposing form. The Secretary of the Trustees, in a letter to Governor Chittenden, introduces the subject as one of the greatest consequence 'to the benefit and glory of the State,' and refers to President Wheelock as fully empowered to act on the matter in behalf of the Trustees. The President in his communications, after lauding 'the rapid progress of the State towards the summit of civilization and the arts, under the wise guidance of the Legislature,' and showing what an amount of clear gain would accrue to its citizens, in solid coin, from not having to spend any money in sustaining academies and colleges, having strengthened these points by the introduction of other related topics, proceeds to make in substance the following propositions: That the Legislature sequester for the use of Dartmouth College the rights of land reserved in the New Hampshire Grants for the Propagation Society, and for the purpose of Glebes, and those in the Vermont Grants for the use of Academies and a College, and that on their so doing, the Trustees were, in a reasonable time, to set up and maintain an Academy in each County with suitable instructors, tuition at the institutions and at Dartmouth College, or at a branch college to be set up within the State, if the Legislature shall ever think it necessary, to be free of charge for tuition to all students from the State. Moreover, if after accomplishing so much, any surplus revenue should accrue from the lands, it was to be applied for the support of free schools; and the Legislature if judged best, might appoint Commissioners to see all the proceeds properly applied. Should the Legislature not wish to go upon the entire plan, they might adopt a part of it, with a corresponding diminution of grants on their part, and benefits rendered by the other party." *Am. Quar. Reg.*, vol. xiii, pp. 394, 395.

The plan was reported upon by a joint Committee of the Assembly and Council as deserving consideration, and one which

would beneficially affect the State in important particulars. The business was referred to the next Session of the Legislature, and the Letters and Report ordered to be published in "both the newspapers in this State, three weeks successively, at the cost of the State." The publication of these papers excited considerable attention, and drew forth sundry communications in prose and doggerel rhyme. Some of these were in favor of the scheme; but most of them were decidedly against it. At the adjourned Session of the Legislature, in the ensuing February, the subject of Dartmouth College came up for consideration. It was referred to a committee with power to name Commissioners. This Committee reported in favor of referring the matter to the next Session of the Legislature. This report was adopted. During the same day, however, this action was reconsidered by a vote of twenty-four to twenty-three. The affair of Dartmouth College was then disposed of by the resolution, "That the proposals from the College are such as cannot be accepted." *Am. Quar. Reg.*, vol. xiii, p. 395; *Church Review*, vol. iv, pp. 582, 583.

The Letters and Reports may be seen in the *Vermont Journal*, printed at Windsor, for January 1, 1787, et seq., and in the *Vermont Gazette*, printed at Bennington, for November 27, 1786, et seq. Articles by "A Vermont Farmer," "A Faithful Examiner," and "Peter Wimble" are in the *Journal* for Jan. 22d, Feb. 12th and 19th; and articles by "A Watchman," "An Inhabitant of Vermont" and by "John Wheelock," are in the *Gazette* for Feb. 19th and 26th, 1787.

Before the subject of Dartmouth College was taken up in the Legislature of 1787, the Hon. Nathaniel Chipman, the Chief Justice of the State, and several other Episcopalians, prompted by the action of the Propagation Society in 1785, presented a Petition to that honorable body, setting forth, that there are, within this State, many Rights of Land formerly granted to a Society in England by the name of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and that said Society have proposed to convey said Lands to a Society or Societies, to be incorporated under the direction of any State where such Lands may lie, and praying that a Society may be incorporated for the purpose of communicating with the aforesaid Society in Great Britain, and of receiving from them a conveyance of the aforesaid Lands.



This respectful Petition was not honored with a reference even ; but having been read it was dismissed. *Church Review*, vol. iv, p. 583.

These, and various other applications from towns, served to turn the attention of the Legislature to the reserved rights in the New Hampshire grants and excite its cupidity. The desire for this property begat the purpose to take it. The Committee appointed in October, 1786, on the subject of Dartmouth College, while they recommended the reference of it to the next Session of the Legislature, gave, in their report, this opinion respecting the fee of the lands granted to the Propagation Society : " In the opinion of this Committee, the lands formerly claimed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in consequence of the Revolution, are now become the property of the citizens of Vermont." And, in October, 1787, an Act was passed, authorizing the Selectmen of the several towns, to take care of and improve the Glebe and Society lands, for the space of seven years, and to apply the incomes to the improvements of the lands. In this Act an exception was made of those Glebes which might be in the actual possession of Episcopal Ministers. This law, and the additional one of 1789, was but little attended to, and was not at all competent to the improvement of the lands or to render them beneficial to the State, or to any valuable purpose. Williams' *Hist. Vt.*, vol. ii, c. x; *Journal* 1789, pp. 40, 50, 58.

During the Session of the Legislature in October, 1789, " a Petition from Matthew Lyon, praying a grant of a lot of land lying within this State, in the town of Fairhaven, belonging to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," was presented, read and referred to the next Legislature. Early in the Session of the Legislature in October, 1790, this Petition was taken up, considered and finally dismissed. *Journal* 1789, p. 49; 1790, pp. 6, 16, 32.

With a view to relief from the restraint of the laws of 1787 and 1789, the Committee of the Convention at Arlington was appointed and requested to endeavor to obtain an Act of the Legislature for the purpose of securing to the Church the possession of their Lands. Mr. Todd was a Member of the Legislature from Arlington in 1790. But no effort appears, from the *Journal* of the

Legislature for that year, to have been made in behalf of the interests of the Church.

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## 1791.

Of the Convention of 1791, no record is known to exist. A Convention was probably held at Arlington on the 21st of September. In the Records of the Parish in that town, there is the following record of a Parish Meeting acting with reference to a Convention, holden on the *sixth* day of September: "Voted, that Mr. Zadoc Hard be one of a Committee to attend the Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held at Arlington *on the twenty-first day of September, instant.*"

"Voted, that Caleb Dayton be one to attend said Convention."

"Voted, that Nathan Canfield, Esq., be one to attend said Convention."

"Voted, that Tyrus Hurd be one to attend said Convention."

Something may have hindered the Delegates from the few widely scattered Parishes in the State, from meeting in numbers sufficient to organize and act as a Convention.

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## 1792.

MANCHESTER, Sept. 19, 1792.

At a regular Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, holden at Manchester, on the 19th day of September, 1792, the following gentlemen appeared as Members, produced their Credentials and took their seats, viz.

SANDGATE:

Rev. JAMES NICHOLS,  
ABEL BRISTOL,

JOHN WADKINS,  
ENOCH BASSET.

## BENNINGTON:

THOMAS BUMFORD, Esq.,      GEO. McELEHERON.

## ARLINGTON:

ZADOC HARD,      ANDREW HAWLEY.

## MANCHESTER:

Rev. DANIEL BARBER,      JONATHAN BENEDICT,  
JOB GIDDINGS,      JABEZ HAWLEY.

## DORSET:

ELEAZER BALDWIN,      SAMUEL MARSH, Esq.  
ASA BALDWIN,

## PAWLET:

BENONI SMITH,      EBENEZER COBB.  
HENRY WOOSTER,

## CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK.

The Convention proceeded to the house of public worship to attend Divine Service. The Rev. Mr. Catlin read prayers, and the Rev. Mr. Nichols preached.

The Convention then proceeded to business.

Mr. Eleazer Baldwin was chosen Chairman, and the Rev. Daniel Barber, Secretary.

What was said and done in this Convention, the Record of which is so meagre, we have very scant means of knowing. It seems probable that the question of Church rights and property received due consideration. In October, only a few days after the time of this meeting, a "Petition of the Members of the Episcopal Church Convention," was presented to the Legislature then in session at Rutland, "praying that all the power and authority which the Selectmen have in their respective towns, over Glebe and Society Lands in this State, in which there are no settled or officiating Clergymen, given them by virtue of an Act passed by the Assembly, on the 26th of October, 1787, may, so far as it respects Glebe Lands, be transferred to the standing Church Committee, appointed by their Convention, and their successors in office."

Having been read, this Petition was referred to a Committee, consisting of one member from each County, to join such Committee as the Council shall appoint. Members chosen, Messrs. Josiah Wright, Pownal; Arad Hunt, Hinsdale; Eli Coggsweil, Castleton; Abel Thompson, Ferrisburgh; William Chamberlin Peacham; Jonathan Hoit, St. Albans, and Benjamin Emmons, Woodstock. Journal 1792, pp. 13, 14.

Thursday, Nov. 1st. "The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the members of the Episcopal Church, reported a Bill, entitled 'An Act incorporating and giving certain powers to the Church Committee, appointed by the Protestant Episcopal Convention, within this State,' which was read, and ordered that the same be referred to the next session of the Assembly." Journal 1792, p. 82.

November 5th a Bill was introduced entitled "An Act directing the mode of securing lands within this State, granted by Charter to the first settled ministers of the Gospel, and to the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts." This Bill passed the first and second reading, and was then "referred to the next session of the Assembly." Journal 1792, pp. 93, 105.

A Bill of a severer aspect, having the same design as the above, was brought before the Legislature at an earlier day than this. It was read once, laid on the table and never taken up. Journal 1792, p. 82.

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## 1793.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met at Pawlet, September 18th, 1793.

Members present :

SANDGATE :

Rev. JAMES NICHOLS,	ENOCH BASSET.
ABRAHAM BRISTOL,	

ARLINGTON :

ZADOC HARD,	CALEB DAYTON.
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DORSET :

ELEAZER BALDWIN,	JONATHAN ARMSTRONG.
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## MANCHESTER:

Rev. DANIEL BARBER,                      TRUMAN SQUIRES.  
 JOB GIDDINGS,

## PAWLET:

Capt. JONA. WILLARD,                      EBENEZER COBB.

## TINMOUTH:

EBENEZER MERVIN.

## FAIRHAVEN:

Col. MATTHEW LYON.

## CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK.

## WELLS:

JAYSON TAYLOR,                      DAVID LEWIS.

## BENNINGTON:

WILLIAM McELHERON.

## SALISBURY:

STEPHEN HARD, Esq.

## SHELBURN:

Rev. BETHUEL CHITTENDEN.

## HARTLAND:

Rev. J. C. OGDEN.

## RUPERT:

GROVE MOORE, Esq.

The above named Members produced their Credentials and took their seats.

Motioned by Col. Lyon, that John Prindle and Joshua Thompson of Granville be invited to take seats in this Convention.

Eleazer Baldwin was chosen Chairman, and Rev. Daniel Barber, Secretary.

Resolved, That the persons whose names are inserted in a Bill, lying before the General Assembly for the purpose of obtaining an Act of Incorporation, shall be the Standing Committee of this Convention for the year ensuing.

Resolved, That six persons be appointed a Committee for the purpose of recommending Candidates to the Bishop for Holy Orders.

The following persons were appointed, viz.

Rev. Daniel Barber,	Rev. Bethuel Chittenden,
Rev. Russel Catlin,	Eleazer Baldwin,
Rev. James Nichols,	Zadoc Hard.

Resolved, That the Rev. Daniel Barber and Col. Matthew Lyon be appointed members to attend the General Convention of the United States, should there be any convened this year.

The following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to make application to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for a conveyance of their lands within this State ; viz. Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, Col. Matthew Lyon, Ebenezer Marvin, Eleazer Baldwin, Truman Squier, Rev. James Nichols, Rev. Daniel Barber and Rev. J. C. Ogden. (a)

The following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to nominate a Bishop to preside over the Church in this State; viz. Rev. James Nichols, Rev. J. C. Ogden, Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, Matthew Lyon, Truman Squier and George McEleheron.

Adjourned till to-morrow Morning at 8 o'clock.

Sept. 19th, 1793. The Convention opened according to adjournment.

Mr. Job Giddings was appointed Treasurer.

On motion, Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be returned to the Rev. J. C. Ogden for his Sermon delivered yesterday, and a Copy of the same requested for the Press.

*Voted, to elect the Reverend Doctor Edward Bass, Rector of Newburyport, to be Bishop of this State. (b)*

Daniel Chipman, Esq., member from Rutland, produced his Credentials and took his seat.

Voted, That the Secretary subscribe a Letter to the Reverend Dr. Bass, in behalf of this Convention, notifying him of his election.

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(a) This Committee was appointed in anticipation that the Bill introduced into the Legislature of 1792 and referred to the session of this year, would become a Law. It does not appear, however, from the Journal of the Legislature for 1793, that the Bill was taken up for consideration.

Something having reference to the Church lands was attempted at this meeting of the Legislature. October, 18th, 1793, Mr. Oliver Gallup of Hartland, "moved for liberty to bring in a Bill entitled, An Act in explanation of an act, passed October 26th, 1787, entitled, 'An Act authorizing the Selectmen of the several towns in this State, to improve the Glebe and Society Lands.'" The Bill was brought in, read, laid on the table, and on the second reading, October 30th, it was dismissed. Journal 1793, pp. 71, 153, 154.

November 2d, the same gentlemen, with the intention of doing something in regard to the property of the Church, "moved for liberty to bring in a Bill, entitled, An Act to extend the operation of an act, entitled, 'An Act authorizing the Selectmen in the several towns in this State to improve the Glebe and Society lands, etc., in certain cases therein mentioned.'" Leave was granted him, the Bill read and ordered to lie on the table. Journal 1793, p. 192.

This Bill was not, during the Session, taken from the table. The design of these movements, especially the last one, may have been to prevent the actual sequestration of these lands by the State, in the hope of obtaining a proper conveyance of the Propagation Rights to the Church in this State.

The Committee of the Convention, although disappointed so far as respected any favorable action of the Legislature, appear to have done what they could to secure a conveyance of the Propagation Rights. "On the 16th of May, 1794, an application was made to the Society through the Bishop of New York, by the Episcopal Convention of Vermont, requesting the Society to convey, for the support of the Episcopal Church in that Diocese, the

land held by the Society in Vermont, under grants from New Hampshire. The Committee of the Society made a report as follows: The Committee agreed in opinion, that the Bishop of New York be assured of the Society's readiness to concur in any measures which can forward the establishment of an Episcopal Church. But having considered that former applications have been made from the State of Vermont, differing in their intentions from the present, which were rejected by the Society in May 1790; and at the same time Mr. Parker, of Boston, when he obtained a deed from the Society for the conveyance of their lands in New Hampshire, had signified that he should not trouble them respecting Vermont, till he should know the operation of that deed; and having never since heard from Mr. Parker on that subject, are of the opinion, that there is not sufficient ground for the Society to execute the present deed." 4 Peters' Reports, 483.

(b) Having been informed of his election, Dr. Bass, under the date of January 2d, 1794, returned the following answer, which must be regarded as an acceptance of the office of Bishop:

"I apprehend that the Clergy and People of Vermont cannot reasonably support the immediate residence of a Bishop among them, but only temporary visitations, until he shall, by the increase of the lands, be enabled to live in his proper district."

"As to my determination respecting the election, when I consider the importance of the station, and what a weight it must lay upon my mind, I cannot help hesitating."

"I shall, however, accept of it, provided they do not require my constant residence. Wishing you to communicate their minds to me as to this particular, I may possibly, next spring or summer, repair to the proper place for consecration, if you and one or two others of the Clergy will engage to come down here, each one a week or two, to supply my place."

"I shall write your Convention, and give them notice of my intention, and of the exact time of my departure, and shall wish to have some of you here, the Sunday before my setting out."

"All this, provided you consent to the above conditions."

The foregoing paragraphs are certified to be a true copy of the Letter of Dr. Bass by the Rev. J. C. Ogden, to whom the original was addressed.



There may have been other communications from Dr. Bass ; but at this distance of time, we have no knowledge of any. As the course taken by the Churchmen of Vermont, soon after the reception of the above communication, must ever appear hasty and disrespectful, it is fit to give here a brief account of this venerable and devout man.

Edward Bass—the grandson of Samuel Bass who came to this country about the year 1630,—was born at Dorchester, Massachusetts, November 23d, 1726. He graduated, with honor, at Harvard College, 1774. During the first three years after his graduation, he was employed in teaching school and in theological reading. In 1747, he took his second degree, and, from that time, until 1751, he resided at the College, pursuing his theological studies. In the meantime he received a license to preach in the Congregational denomination. In 1752, he left that sect and joined the Episcopal Church. In the early part of the same year, at the request of the Church in Newbury, he went to England for Ordination. He was ordained Deacon, on the 24th of May, by Bishop Sherlock. Having subsequently received Priest's Orders, he returned in the autumn of that year, and took charge of St. Paul's Church, Newbury. In the time of the Revolution, Mr. Bass, with much reluctance conformed, in the use of the Liturgy, so far as respected the King and the Royal Family, to the wishes of his Parish and the public sentiment of New England. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel at once withdrew his salary as a Missionary. By the aid of generous friends, however, he continued in the quiet discharge of his ministerial duties.

On the 4th day of June, 1789, at a meeting of six Presbyters, including Mr. Bass, belonging to Massachusetts and New Hampshire, held at Salem, Mr. Bass was elected Bishop over the Churches in these States. Application for his consecration was made to the Bishops of Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania. The election being irregular, and the Churches in those States not being in union with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, the papers relating to it were laid before the General Convention at Philadelphia, July 30th, 1789, by Bishop White. After due consideration, the matter was disposed of, August 5th, by several Resolutions, offered by the Rev. Dr. Smith of

Maryland. By the 4th one, the three Bishops were requested to comply with the prayer of the Clergy of Massachusetts and New Hampshire for the consecration of Mr. Bass; but that before they should do so, a Convention as proposed by Massachusetts and New Hampshire, of the Churches in New England and of the three States above named, with the Bishops of the same, should meet to settle certain Articles of Union and Discipline among all the Churches. This Convention met at Philadelphia, September 29th, 1789. The Churches of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, by their Deputies, formally agreed and subscribed to the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church, on the 2d of October, 1789. But no steps seem subsequently to have been taken for the consecration of Mr. Bass. In July 1789, Mr. Bass received the degree of Doctor in Divinity from the University of Pennsylvania. September 19th, 1793, Dr. Bass was elected Bishop of Vermont. No means, however, appear to have been taken to secure his consecration. As the Church in Vermont had not as yet adopted the Constitution of the Church in this country, it could not have taken place. In the early part of 1796, Dr. Bass was duly elected Bishop of Massachusetts, and on the 7th of May, he was consecrated in Christ Church, Philadelphia by Bishops White, Provoost and Claggett. This office he held a little more than six years, retaining, also, his Rectorship. He died September 10th, 1803, in the 74th year of his age, and the 51st of his Ministry of the Gospel of Christ.

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## 1794.

### FACTS AND DOCUMENTS.

The year 1794 was one of great and critical interest to the Episcopal Church in Vermont. Unfortunately, no connected and authentic record of what was done in the Convention, or Conventions, of that year, was made and preserved. From some ascertained facts, and documents of various kinds, however, some things may be gathered, possessing much historical value. For the statement of these facts, and the due preservation of these documents, this place may be at once fit and convenient.

February 27th, 1794, a *Special Convention* of the Diocese was holden at Manchester. Of this Convention Eleazer Baldwin was President, and the Rev. Daniel Barber, Secretary. In this Convention, a little less than two months after the Rev. Dr. Bass had, in effect, accepted the office of Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont, Col. John A. Graham, of Rutland, nominated for Bishop a relative and friend of himself, The Rev. Samuel Peters, LL. D. This nomination was received with so much favor that Dr. Peters was elected. Judging from two phrases in the letter of Dr. Peters, accepting the office of Bishop over the Church in Vermont—"the Convention had pretty unanimously chosen me," and "the want of unanimity in the Church"—we naturally conclude that there was opposition to this course of action in the Convention and in the Diocese, and that Dr. Peters had been informed in regard to it. From one of the letters of Dr. Peters, addressed to Truman Squier, hereafter inserted, we learn that the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was opposed to the election and consecration of Dr. Peters, and that he wrote to him, stating, with frankness, the reasons of his opposition. The aged and respected widow of Mr. Squier, still living in Bennington, resident in Manchester at the time of this Convention, states that the Rev. J. C. Ogden, who was her guest during the time of its session, was likewise much opposed to the election of Dr. Peters. Probably he took the same view of the affair as that entertained by Mr. Chittenden.

The same lady states there was much active exertion made by the relatives and old friends of Dr. Peters, to effect his election. Col. Jarvis of Toronto, Canada, the son-in-law of Dr. Peters, a man of good address, wealth and station, was present at this Convention—likewise her guest—and was very active and earnest in promoting the interest of his father. By his influence and that of others a majority of votes was secured in favor of Dr. Peters.

The Rev. Dr. Peters left this country in September, 1774, and at the time of his election by the Convention, was residing in London. Col. Graham was sent to England to secure the Consecration of Dr. Peters in that country. From documents, inserted in the sequel, it appears that Col. Graham was, also, appointed, by the Standing Committee of the Convention of 1793, Agent

and Attorney of the Church in Vermont to procure a conveyance of the land of the Propagation Society within this State, to himself and certain other gentlemen.

As Col. Graham, after his arrival in England, gave attention first to the Society lands, we may as well insert first what papers we have respecting his negotiations with the Society, and, afterwards, various documents in respect to the desired consecration of Dr. Peters.

The following power of attorney was given to Col. Graham, by the Rev. Daniel Barber, Secretary of the Convention.

“State of Vermont:

These certify that the honorable Committee of the Episcopalian Convention of the State of Vermont, have nominated, constituted and appointed John A. Graham, Esq. Counsellor at Law, of Rutland, in said State, their Agent and Attorney to Great Britain, to apply to the Society, known by the appellation of the Society for the Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and to treat with them relative to their lands lying in the said State of Vermont, and, in general, to negotiate and transact such business in the premises, as he, in his wisdom, shall think proper, and for the benefit of the Episcopal Churches in the said State. Credit and good faith is therefore requested to be given to him accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal, at Rutland this 15th day of October in the year of our Lord, 1794.

DANIEL BARBER,

Secretary of the Convention of  
the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont.”

“By his excellency the Governor of the State of Vermont,—  
To all who shall see these presents,

Greeting:

These certify that Daniel Barber, signer of the within certificate, is Secretary to the Convention of the Episcopal Church in this State. In testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of this State to be affixed, this 15th day of October A. D. 1794.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

By the Governor,  
JOSEPH FAY, Secretary.”



The following letter was addressed to the Rev. Dr. Morice by Col. Graham immediately after his arrival in England, respecting the lands of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel:

“WESTMINSTER, Feb. 4th, 1795.

REVEREND SIR:

The Committee of the Episcopalian Convention of the State of Vermont, having by their letter of Attorney properly authenticated, appointed the Subscriber their Agent and Attorney to apply to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and to treat with them relative to their lands lying in the said State of Vermont, and to negotiate and transact such business in the premises as shall be thought proper for the benefit of the Episcopal Churches in said State, he embraces the earliest opportunity of making the following communication, which he requests may be laid before the Society.

About 30 years ago, while the district of country, now known by the name of the State of Vermont, was a part of the British Colony of New-Hampshire, Benning Wentworth, Esq. then Governor of the said Colony of New-Hampshire, in the Grants which he made of townships of land, in the district of country aforesaid, by authority derived from his present Majesty, reserved to the Society aforesaid, certain portions of land, in each town, for the purpose of supporting the Church of England in the then Colony of New-Hampshire.

In consequence of the political events which have taken place between that country and this, and the lapse of time since the Society's title commenced, a powerful party has been formed in the Legislature of the State, with professed views to defeat the title derived under the original Grant. As the Society have adopted no measures, during the long time which has elapsed, to occupy and improve the lands, the Episcopalian Convention, and, indeed, all friends to the Church of England in that country, are under strong apprehensions that the profits of these lands will be lost to the Society, and diverted to other purposes, unless immediate measures are taken to prevent it. The undersigned Agent will take the liberty of stating for the consideration of the Society, the mode of procedure which the Convention, for whom he



has the honor to act, conceived would be most conducive to the interests of the Church of England in the State of Vermont, under the existing circumstances.

First; The Society to release and quit-claim to the undersigned Agent, Dr. Peters, the Bishop elect, and William Hull, Esq. of Newton, in the State of Massachusetts, all their right and title to the lands aforesaid, to the use and for the support of the Episcopal Churches in the said State of Vermont.

Secondly; The Society to execute a power of Attorney to the Trustees aforesaid, to prosecute and defend all suits, in the name of the Society, which may be instituted relative to their lands. The Trustees likewise to be authorized to make any compromise with the State of Vermont, or any individuals respecting the same. And if any compromise should be deemed necessary, and it should be thought requisite to relinquish any part of the lands to the State, or to any individuals who have improved or possessed them, an authority to be given to the Trustees to release to the State, or to individuals all the Society's title to such part as shall be thus relinquished for the purpose of obtaining an indisputable title to the residue. The Trustees likewise to be authorized to sell absolutely such part of the lands as may be necessary to defray the expenses of suits, etc. unless the Society should devise some other mode of defraying the expenses. In case the former mode should be adopted, the Trustees to indemnify the Society against any cost, charge, or expense which may arise, either by prosecuting or defending suits, or by their services in the premises.

JOHN A. GRAHAM, Agent.

To DR. MORICE, Secretary to the S. P. G. F. P."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, p. 19, 20, (1796).

Answer of Dr. Morice to the foregoing letter :

"GOWER STREET, No. 53, Feb. 21, 1795.

SIR:—I did not fail to communicate to the Society at their Anniversary yesterday, the application you left with me in writing, for their relinquishing all their right and title which they may have to certain lands in Vermont. But as there was much other neces-

sary business, which took up their whole time, the discussion of that business was postponed to their next Meeting in March.

I am, Sir, your respectful, humble servant,

WILLIAM MORICE, Secretary."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, p. 20.

"Dr. Morice's compliments to Col. Graham, and acquaints him that he laid his papers before the Society at their meeting on Friday last, and that the Resolution of the Society was, not to comply with the proposals respecting the lands in Vermont.

GOWER STREET, March 23, 1795."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, p. 20.

Much obscurity rests on many points relative to the election of the Rev. Samuel Peters, LL. D., to the office of Bishop over the Episcopal Church in Vermont. At this distance of time, owing to the negligence of parties who took part in this transaction, in regard to records, letters and other papers, it may be found impossible to give a connected and satisfactory account. The Rev. A. B. Chapin, D. D., in a letter published in Sprague's Annals of the American Episcopal Pulpit, makes the following statement: "After the Organization of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and the Consecration of Bishop Seabury in Scotland, and three Bishops in England for this country, the Episcopalians in Vermont united with a body of those not previously of that communion, and elected Dr. Peters Bishop of that State." For the support of this assertion, Dr. Chapin gives no reference. He may have had what he deemed authority for it. It is a pity he withheld it. After all, the assertion above made may rest on this passage in the life of Hugh Peters, written by Samuel: "After the Revolutionary War, the Episcopalians who had settled in the State of Vermont, with the Presbyterians, Methodists and Puritans, unanimously elected the Rev. Samuel Peters, LL. D., their Bishop, and invited him to accept the office and return from England to his native country." Life of Hugh Peters, p. 94.

How much of sober truth there may be in this sentence, and how much of hyperbole, one may not now be able to say. Very few of the present generation are aware that there ever was in Vermont

such a reign of peace, and that the parties named above once joined with Episcopalians, especially in 1794, in the election of the Rev. Samuel Peters, LL. D., to be their Bishop! We wait for light.

No copy of the Letter of the Rev. Mr. Barber to Dr. Peters, informing him of his election, is known to exist. The general tenor and purport of it, however, may be gathered from the following reply to it by Dr. Peters, accepting the office to which he had been elected. The other letter alluded to below seems to have been complimentary.

“No. 22, YORK STREET, WESTMINSTER,  
July 17, 1794.

REVEREND AND DEAR BROTHER:

The 5th day of July current I had the honor of receiving your polite, communicative, and friendly letter, dated Manchester in the State of Vermont, the 27th of last February.

At present I can only thank you for the communications respecting the prospects you have in the State of Vermont of seeing an increase of the Protestant Episcopal Church; and that, to promote it, the Convention had pretty unanimously chosen me to be their Bishop.

This event (though unexpected to me) I view as the work of God, and could have no objection to go over and spend my remaining days amongst my friends in my native country, to build up the Church of Christ, for which I have laboured and suffered all my life, but the fear of the want of unanimity in the Church, which naturally leads to schism; and from my imperfections and insufficiency to fill the Episcopal Chair in a State famed for wisdom and learned men.

However, depending on God, the wisdom of the wise, the charity and prayers of all, I have determined to accept your election, as the call of Jesus Christ the Lord. To this purpose I have written my letter, addressed to all the Churches in Vermont, of even date with this, which you, as Secretary of the Convention, will have the goodness to communicate to that Venerable Body first, and they to the Churches spread over the State of Vermont, in such manner as you and they shall judge to be most proper.

I must now inform you that I cannot go over to you, nor have

Consecration here, untill the letter of the Convention to the Archbishop of Canterbury (*en polsent*, very handsome and full) comes here with the seal of your State, or of the Notary Public, certifying the existence of the Protestant Episcopal Convention of Vermont, and that they have elected the Rev. Samuel Peters, LL. D. to be Bishop of Vermont, as appears by the signatures of the Committee of the Convention, together with its President and its Secretary: in testimony of which I have hereunto affixed the seal of, etc., etc.

Had you thought of this canonical rule last February, and sent the seal fixed to either of your letters, No. 1 or 2, addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, I could have seen you before next Christmas. But now I must be deprived of that pleasure untill the winter shall be past; at which time I shall set out, in hopes of seeing and blessing you before I die.

The letter addressed to me from the Committee of Convention, dated last February, honored me, and secures my gratitude and respect. I wish that I was better able to support their high esteem and expectations; but so far as my abilities fall short, so far, I trust, my zeal and labours in my station will exceed their hopes.

Evident is the necessity of a Bishop resident, to set things in order, and to promote harmony in the Churches. And I have no doubt of receiving every respect due to the sacred office or myself, both in a temporal and spiritual manner: yet I feel it to be my duty to tell you a circumstance possible to happen. As soon as I am consecrated Bishop of Vermont, a foreign State, my present support from this Government may be withheld:—Should this event take place, I shall have no resource but what shall arise from the Churches in the State of Vermont now in their infancy. The fact is, I 'want but little here below, nor want that little long.' My mind and merits claim no more; yet the dignity of the station which you have given me, and the primitive hospitality belonging to the Episcopal Chair, demand your and my attention; lest my reputation and the fashion of religion dwindle away through my poverty in the highest office of Christ's Church.

Should the English Bishops neglect to consecrate me, because you have three Bishops in the States of America already, consecrated by the English Bishops, and plead the limitation of the



Act of Parliament for their neglect, I shall apply for consecration to the College of Bishops in Scotland; because your three Bishops reside too remote from one another, and from the State of Vermont, to be convened by me.

I am, with perfect esteem and sincerity, Reverend and Dear Sir, your and the Convention's most honored and most humble servant,  
SAMUEL PETERS.

THE REV. MR. DANIEL BARBER, Secretary of the Convention of the Episcopal Church of Vermont, and Rector of Manchester and Pawlet."

Sprague's Ann. of the Am. Ep. Pulpit, pp. 196, 197, 198.

The letter following, alluded to in the preceding, was addressed by Dr. Peters to the Churches which had elected him to the office of Bishop.

*"To the Churches of Christ spread abroad in the State of Vermont, mercy, peace, and love be multiplied:*

Until I come, give attendance to reading, prayer and faith. When present with you, by the grace of God, I will lead you through the wilderness of life, up to a world that knows no sorrow. I will guide you with mine eye, and feed your lambs and sheep with bread more durable than the everlasting hill.

While absent from you in body, I am present with you in mind, thanking God always in every prayer of mine, and making request with joy for your fellowship in the Gospel of His Son; that you may be of good cheer, and overcome a world yielding no content, the only wealth of man; and that you may know to be abased, and how to abound; every where and in all things to be instructed to obey the laws of Christ.

The spirit which heals all our infirmities, no doubt led you to glorify God in me, when you appointed the least of all saints to fill the highest station in the Church of Jesus Christ; duty and inclination (with feeble blood flowing in my veins) inspire my soul to seek and do you good in that sacred office to which you have invited me; being confident that you will receive me with all gladness, and hold me in reputation for the work of Christ, which brought me near to death, and shall finally make you my glory and joy.



Your preferring me to my superiors, both in spiritual and literary attainments, honours me most unexpectedly, and demands my best returns of gratitude and labours of love.

Should Providence conduct me over the dangers of the sea to my native shore, and give me the blessing of seeing again my long absent friends, I shall rejoice as Simeon did at his vision, and with him say, 'Lord, now let me depart in peace—for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.' Though I may blush when you discover my improvements not adequate to your expectations and my opportunities in this Isle of wisdom and learning.

Should my insufficiency in spiritual and scientific knowledge appear too manifest among you, my zeal and labours in the vineyard of the Lord shall, I trust, be your pride and boast. In this hope, and resting on the candour, order, morality, learning, piety and religion of those over whom I am well chosen to preside, I shall, with some degree of confidence, undertake the charge, and claim the wisdom of the wise to enlighten my understanding, and the charity and prayers of all to remove my wants, and to lessen my manifold imperfections.

Whenever I come to you, it will be in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of God. I beseech you, therefore, Brethren, for Christ's sake and the love of the Spirit, that you strive together in your prayers to God for me, that I may come unto you with joy, and may with you be refreshed.

'Be ye wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.'

The Churches of Christ salute you. Salute one another with faith and love.

I salute you all with the peace of God, which passeth all understanding; and in the mystery of the everlasting God made known for the obedience of faith.

'To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ, forever, Amen.'

Dearly beloved Brethren, whether absent or present, believe me to be, with all sentiments of respect and fidelity,

Your servant in Christ,

SAMUEL PETERS.

YORK STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, July 17th, 1794."

Sprague's Ann. of Am. Ep. Pulpit, pp. 198, 199.

The following documents respect the effort which was made to secure the Consecration of Dr. Peters in England.

“To the Most Reverend Father in God, *John*, Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, and Metropolitan of all England;

May it please your Grace,—

The Convention of the Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont have elected the Rev. Dr. Samuel Peters of London, to the office of Bishop, and hereby request that he may be commissioned and duly authorized to discharge all the duties of that sacred function among us.

When we consider the dignity of the station and its important uses, we are deeply impressed with the nature of the business. We have now undertaken to add another to the Apostolic Order. In this election, we have sought a gentleman, whom we view as worthy of the place, in whose piety, learning and abilities we do confide, and have endeavored to conduct his election with all that prudence, caution and candour, which become us.

The benevolent provision made by Act of Parliament for furnishing the States with the succession of the Apostolic Order, and the indulgent attention of the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, in consequence, to the appointments already made by the Conventions of the Churches in the other States, leads us to hope for a continuance of their goodness.

As much loss of time may be prevented, if Dr. Peters receives Consecration in England, we hope to be indulged in this request, which will be the more acceptable to us, as it will afford us an opportunity of expressing our affectionate attachment to the Church Clergy of England, and enjoying an additional instance of their continued attachment and regard to the prosperity of the Church in these States, which descended from England, and by her long continued cares has been cherished to respectability.

We are with all due veneration, Your Grace's most devoted and obedient servants.

(Signed) Eleazer Baldwin, Pres. by order of the Convention.

(Signed) Daniel Barber, Secretary.

Dated at RUTLAND, Oct. 15th, 1794.

(Signed) James Nichols, Bethuel Chittenden, John C. Ogden, Ebenezer Marvin, Truman Squier," Committee.

"A true Copy of the doings of the Convention holden at Manchester, February the 27th day, A. D. 1794.

Attest: DANIEL BARBER, Secretary."

Rural Mag. vol. ii, pp. 72, 73.

"To the Most Reverend Father in God, John, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and Metropolitan of all England,

May it please your Grace,

We are informed our former Credentials, praying for the Consecration of the Rev. Mr. Samuel Peters to the office of Bishop, had the misfortune to miscarry going to London. We trust and hope this will be our apology for troubling your Grace with the copies of what was formerly recommended and forwarded.

The Hon. John Graham will wait on your Grace, with these papers, by the leave of Providence. We beg leave to inform your Grace that Col. Graham is a gentleman of respect in the States and whose friendship is of importance to the Church. We are, may it please your Grace, Your Grace's most devoted, humble servants.

JAMES NICHOLS, DANIEL BARBER,  
EBENEZER MARVIN, TRUMAN SQUIER.

RUTLAND, Oct. 14th, 1794."

[SEAL.] "By his Excellency, Thomas Chittenden, Esq., Governor, Captain General, and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Vermont—

To all who shall see these,

Greeting:

Know ye that Eleazer Baldwin, who has signed the within record, is president of the Convention of the Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, and that Daniel Barber is Secretary, and that James Nichols, Bethuel Chittenden, John C. Ogden and Russell Catlin are clerks, and Ebenezer Marvin and Truman Squier, gentlemen and laymen, are a Standing-Committee of the said Church. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto caused the seal of the State to be affixed in council, at the council chamber at Rutland, this 14th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand

seven hundred and ninety four, and in the nineteenth year of the independence of this and the United States of America.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

By the Governor.

JOSEPH FAY, Secretary."

Rural Mag. vol. ii, p. 73.

Soon after his arrival in England Col. Graham had the following correspondence with the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury with reference to the Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Peters. As it forms a part of the early history of the Church in Vermont, is very seldom met with and is referred to in the action of the Special Convention held at Rutland Nov. 13th, 1795, it is here inserted.

"No. 340, STRAND, Feb. 14, 1795.

MY LORD:

Having arrived in London, as Agent of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, in America, I am requested to wait on the Rev. Dr. Samuel Peters, Bishop elect of Vermont, for his Consecration by the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury and other Bishops in England.

I therefore take the earliest opportunity to acquaint your Grace of my arrival, and pray your Grace to appoint a time, when I shall have the honor to lay before your Grace, the documents and papers to me intrusted for that purpose.

I have the honor to be, with every sentiment of respect, My Lord, your Grace's most obedient and most humble servant.

JOHN A. GRAHAM, Agent.

His Grace, the Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, p. 74.

"No. 340, STRAND, Feb. 14, 1795.

MY LORD:

I had the honor to write you on the 14th inst., respecting some part of the business of my mission from the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, in America, praying your Lordship to appoint a time, when I should have the honor to lay before you the documents and papers entrusted to my charge, for the Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Peters, Bishop elect for that State.



I humbly implore your Lordship's pardon for addressing you the second time so soon on the subject. As I was requested to lay them before your Grace for the purposes aforesaid, and not having the honor to hear from your Grace, conscience to the trust in me reposed by the Church, bids me solicit your Grace again in the premises.

The necessity of my business urges me to leave London for America by the 1st of April.

Knowing the honor that will redound to our infant State and Church, in having Dr. Peters consecrated by your Grace and the Lord Bishops of England in preference to any other part of the *world*, the Church in the State of Vermont hope and pray that your Grace will gratify them in their desire; and as in duty bound will ever pray.

JOHN A. GRAHAM, Agent.

His Grace, the Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, p. 74.

"LAMBETH PALACE, Feb. 24, 1795.

SIR:

I have been favored with your letters of the 14th and 23d inst., and am sorry I have not been sooner able to name a time for the interview which you do me the honor to desire. I can now reserve the hour between 11 and 12, on Thursday next for that purpose, and shall be glad of the pleasure of seeing you any part of it that may best suit your convenience.

I am, Sir, your most obt. humble Servant.

J. CANTUAR.

Col. J. GRAHAM."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, p. 74.

"Feb. 26th, 1795.

The undersigned Agent according to the appointment of his Grace, the Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, this day waited upon his Lordship at Lambeth Palace, on the business of the Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Peters, the Bishop elect of Vermont, when the business was opened.

His Grace first objected, because the Act of Parliament, passed in January, 1786, was limited to a College, that is, three Bishops



for the United States of America; and his Grace having already consecrated three Bishops,—one for New York, one for Pennsylvania, and one for Virginia, the Act had been fulfilled. The Agent desired to know by what rule of construction said Act could be considered as a limited Act to numbers and countries.

His Grace replied that he had left the Act thus open, lest one of the three Bishops to be consecrated for the States of America should die before they could meet to consecrate a fourth.

The Agent then wished to know why words in the Act of Parliament should not be considered as the only meaning thereof.

His Grace replied that he had himself brought the Bill into the House of Lords, and had moved to have it passed into a Law; and the Earl of Effingham demanded to be informed of the design of the Bill; whereupon he (meaning his Grace, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,) explained it thus: "The design of the Bill is to enable the English Bishops to consecrate a College of Bishops for the United States of America." The Bill then passed into an Act without noticing the explanation of it by his Grace, and that his explanation of the Act was the *only* meaning of it; and if he should consecrate a fourth Bishop for the States of America, he must contradict his own explanation, and might be called on to consecrate a fifth, sixth, seventh and so on, *ad infinitum*, and the English Bishops would never be free from the *trouble* of consecrating Bishops for the States of America.

The Agent then begged his Lordship's indulgence and said, in his opinion as a Lawyer, the Act was indefinite as to numbers and countries, and that the explanation of the Bill in the House of Lords, made no part of the Act.

His Grace replied that *no* Lawyer could understand the spirit and meaning of the Act, and that *he* alone was capable of explaining its real meaning.

The Agent then said, your Grace's successors in office will be bound by the Act itself, without any reference to your Lordship's verbal explanation, unless they should have the spirit of Daniel to divine and develope the secret meaning.

His Grace then assigned a second reason, *to wit*;—a Canon made at Philadelphia by a Convention of Episcopalians of sundry States, in words to this effect: "The Bishops of this Convention

shall not consecrate any Bishop, unless the person consecrated has resided and officiated as a clergyman in one of the States, three years prior to his being consecrated." His Grace said he could not consecrate the Bishop elect of Vermont, who had resided the last twenty years in England, without violating said Canon.

The Agent replied—My Lord, your Grace doth not belong to that Convention, nor doth the Church in Vermont belong to it; and though Dr. Peters hath resided the *last* twenty years in England, yet he has resided and officiated as a Clergyman about fourteen years in Connecticut; therefore the Canon cannot militate against his being consecrated, as the Canon requires only three years residence *prior* to his consecration, and not the three last years *previous* to his consecration.

His Grace next objected and said, "if I should consecrate a fourth Bishop for the States of America, I should invade the rights and offend the College of Bishops of America."

The Agent replied that the three Bishops viz. Dr. Provoost, Dr. White, and Dr. Madison are Bishops in their respective Dioceses; but not Bishops of America or United States; nor has there been a Bishop of the United States since the independence of America. The said three Bishops in the three States, My Lord, are not like an Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, whose power pervades all countries in his Majesty's dominions; but the ubiquity of all other Bishops is confined to their respective Dioceses. Therefore, as the said three Bishops in America are located in three States and the fifteen States have no Arch-Bishop, the Church of Vermont is no more subject to said three Bishops than to the Bishops of England and Ireland; and in fact the Church of Vermont have no legal claim on the three Bishops, in the three States of America, while they hold a right to the benedictions of the English Bishops by a gracious Act of Parliament, passed January, 1786. These things being considered, My Lord, how is it possible for the said three American Bishops to be offended with the English Bishops for consecrating a Bishop for Vermont? Since it is true that the American Bishops have no legal rights in Vermont, therefore their rights in or to Vermont cannot be invaded by the English or any other Bishops. Also, My Lord, the three American Bishops, who live very remote from

each other and from Vermont, ought to be very thankful to the English Bishops for consecrating the Bishop elect of Vermont, as it would prevent them the *trouble* and expense of travelling above 1200 miles to form a temporary College to consecrate the Bishop elect of Vermont. Furthermore, My Lord, there is no existing law in the United States of America, either in Church or State, that can oblige the aforesaid three Bishops to meet to consecrate a Bishop for Vermont.

His Grace replied that those inconveniences were not to be imputed to him, or to the English Bishops.

The undersigned Agent suspected that his Grace had some latent reasons, which kept him from consecrating the Bishop elect. He therefore requested his Grace to inform him, if his Grace had anything to object to the character of Dr. Peters, the Bishop elect of Vermont, that caused him to be unwilling to consecrate him.

His Grace readily answered, no, by no means. His character is unexceptionable. His Grace then asked the undersigned Agent, why application was made to him to consecrate a fourth Bishop for the American States, since he (his Grace) had committed himself in the House of Lords, by an explanation of the design of the Act?

The undersigned Agent answered, he made application to his Grace, because his Grace was Metropolitan of all England, and before this hour he never heard of said explanation.

JOHN A. GRAHAM, Agent

For the Church of Vermont."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, pp. 74, 75, 76.

" No. 340, STRAND, May 11th, 1795.

MY LORD:

I had the honor of addressing your Grace on the 28th day of April, praying for such an answer as might justify me as Agent before the Convention of the Episcopal Church of Vermont, and the Governor thereof, respecting the Consecration of their Bishop elect—a favor solicited on the principles of religion, order and policy, as it relates to the divine right of Episcopacy, and the prosperity of the Church of England in Vermont, admissible by

the Act of Parliament of 1786, and resting entirely on your Grace's discretion and benevolence. The necessities of the Church in Vermont and my family concerns require my speedy return to America. I, therefore, hope your Grace will soon find leisure to give me such an answer, as will naturally tend to keep up the present harmony of the Church in Vermont, and prevent that discord inevitable and ruinous to canonical Episcopacy in that State, should the Convention be defeated in their present application to your Grace, and the cause thereof be made public.

I see myself to be in an unpleasant situation on my return, unless I should be able to assign satisfactory reasons for not succeeding in my embassy from the Convention to your Grace. The Convention of Vermont want not to be told that the English Bishops are not obliged to consecrate their Bishop elect, or that the three Bishops of the three States in America may or may not meet to consecrate him.

It will be sufficient, as I believe, to convince the majority of the Convention, that the Divine right of Protestant Episcopacy is not deemed necessary in the Church of Vermont, when they shall be told that the English Bishops have refused to consecrate their Bishop elect, under an Act of Parliament, made for that pious and benevolent purpose. I augur the consequences will be that the Deistical and Philosophic part of Americans will publish comparisons between the conduct of the English Bishops and those of the Greek and Latin Churches, as well as those of the Coetus of Holland, the Kirk of Scotland, and the Superintendents of the Lutherans in Germany, who annually send laborers into the vineyard of America to promote what they deem to be the glory of the Church of Christ.

My Lord, did I not believe in the Divine right of Episcopacy as well as in Christianity, I should not have become an Agent of a very respectable Convention of a respectable State; but would have advised the Convention to have elected some person to be their Bishop, and then have petitioned their Sovereign Magistrate to consecrate him as Moses did Aaron.

Should your Grace refuse to consecrate the present Bishop elect of Vermont, he has resolved not to go out with me. Consequently, on my return, the Convention most likely will elect another



person, who will be *content* with a consecration performed by the Governor, and not trouble themselves with the three Bishops widely spread in America, or elsewhere, and, at the same time, publish to the *world* their reasons for so doing. With a view to prevent Schism and such evils, I came to England:

I have the honor to be, My Lord, your Grace's most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN A. GRAHAM,

Agent of the Episcopal Convention of Vermont.

His Grace, the Lord Arch-Bishop of Canterbury."

"CANTERBURY, June 17, 1795.

SIR, Having frequently stated to you in the fullest and most explicit manner, and once particularly in the presence of the Rev. S. Peters, the grounds and reasons which induced me to decline taking any steps to obtain his Majesty's licence for the consecration of a Bishop for the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, I hoped there would be no call upon me to repeat them, but that your representations of those statements would be all-sufficient to exculpate you to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, who have elected that Gentleman their Bishop, and to his Excellency, Governor Chittenden, who united with their Convention in recommending him for consecration in England.

I cannot, however, refuse your request to me, to state in writing the grounds on which my conduct in this business is founded.

I beg leave to observe, then, that the statement which I made to you, was founded on a perfect recollection that the spirit and intention of the Act of Parliament which enabled the English Arch-Bishops and Bishops to consecrate Bishops for America, with the King's licence, extends only to such a number, as might, on their return to that country, consecrate a sufficient supply to keep up a succession in their Protestant Episcopal Church there. His Majesty clearly understood this to be the sole object of the Bill presented to Parliament. The Arch-Bishops and Bishops understood it precisely in the same way; and that such was the intention and purport of it, and no more, I myself stated in the House of Lords, when I was called on by the Earl of Effingham and oth-



ers to explain "what occasion there was for such a Bill, and to what number of Bishops our consecration was meant to extend."

I must add further that on the 4th of July, 1786, I wrote from Canterbury to the Committee of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, sending a Copy of the Act, and stating that we understood it as above explained. You will find my letter in the printed Journal, which I sent you before I left London, of a Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, holden at Wilmington, October 10th and 11th, 1786. To the same Journal I must refer you for another letter sent by me and the Arch-Bishop of York, to the Convention, stating the solemn testimonies we should require respecting the literary, moral and religious characters of the persons sent to us for consecration. You will allow me to recommend to your particular attention the very solemn forms of testimonials, which accompanied our letter, and which we insisted upon as essential to us in point of conscience, before we could proceed to consecrate any person sent to us for consecration, from that distant country.

So much for the general question respecting the number of Bishops intended by the Act to be consecrated here for the States of America, on which the Arch-Bishops and Bishops entirely concur in opinion. But were the case otherwise—were they all of opinion that any greater number might be consecrated by that Act, Mr. Peters could not receive consecration from us, since we could have no such testimony, relative to him from Vermont (where for the last 20 years he has never resided), as we always have insisted upon, previous to that solemn act on our part. Nor could the want of that testimony be supplied in England, where he has lived all that time, without the exercise of any ecclesiastical function, within the cognizance or jurisdiction of any of our Bishops.

J. CANTUAR.

COL. J. GRAHAM."

Rural Magazine, vol. ii, pp. 117, 118, 119.

The following letters of Dr. Peters, alluded to in the preceding pages, have never been published. They were kindly given by Madam Squier, of whom mention has been made. The first is

short, and about one half of it has been so eaten by mice that it cannot be read. The date and signature remain legible.

“LONDON, Feb. 11th, 1796.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have inclosed a few lines in reply to your favours, as general hints. I must add that Gen'l Allen is here in good spirits and appears to be much the gentleman. I beg you will make an apology to Col. Lyon, Gen'l Cogswell, Mr. Nichols and Gov'r Chittenden for my not giving them answers to their kind and polite letters at the time. As to the Answer of the three Georgite Bishops to your Request, whether they will consecrate your Bishop elect?—when and where?—I am not much interested, nor is the Church of God; as they are limited to the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, where the yellow fever has taken up its residence, by the Act of Parliament on which their Consecration depended, and by their own Subscriptions at Lambeth, and by their Royal Warrant.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

SAMUEL PETERS.

TRUMAN SQUIER, Esq'r  
Manchester, Verdmont.”

“LONDON, Feb. 11th, 1796.

TRUMAN SQUIER, Esq.,—

MY DEAR SIR:

The 8th of January '96, Col. Graham delivered your Favours of November 14th and 18th, '95, which greatly flattered my vanity and future prospects in Verdmont; though a Letter, said to have come from a Dissenting Minister of that State, has been published here purporting, “that there are no Episcopal Churches in the State, but a few Church People, and only two or three strolling Ministers, who cannot get a decent support, and yet these People have elected a Bishop, who must support himself or starve with his Priests, if he should find one on his arrival.” This account has caused much conversation here; and since the State have sequestered those Lands, formerly under the Guard-

ianship of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to other purposes than that of supporting Episcopacy in that State ; where report says, the Deists and various kinds of Dissenters compose eight tenths of its inhabitants, its wealth, and power. Many people here believe me to be mad, if I should further think of trying to build up a *prelatic* Church in the howling wilderness.

I find myself disappointed by the Decree of your General Assembly. No one here thought they would have done more than cut off the claim of Patronage held up by our Propagation Society.

I have only to consider now, what mode is, or can be taken for the support of a Bishop in Verdmont, since they cannot, or do not support their Priests. Mr. Barber said in his Letter, "that the only difficulty with the Convention and Church of Verdmont, was how to support a Bishop;" and you say, "I hope you will in no respect be disappointed and am fearful it will be out of our power to sufficiently to reward you for your good offices. However the Churches in Verdmont will, I am persuaded, be willing to reward you as far as their abilities will permit." "The Convention and Church hope you will not doubt, their doing all in their Power for your honour and dignity agreeable to the fashion of this country, if you come among us."

I never could entertain any doubt of the Convention who have acted so honorable towards me whilst I was absent and in a foreign country, as to invite me home after twenty years' banishment, for acting according to my Conscience and Oath; but who are the Churches in Verdmont?

Mr. Ogden and Mr. Barber have been expelled Verdmont by Starvation. Bishop Seabury has been deserted in point of support, by the Churches in Connecticut and the three Georgite Bishops have no support, but from their respective Congregations, [and] complain of their miserable situation.

I have lived 15 years in Connecticut without being a burthen to my hearers, when I was young and rich; but now I am old and poor I cannot do the like in Verdmont. I cannot oversee your Churches and visit them, and take charge of a Parish at the same time, at my own expense, at the certain loss of my present stipend here, so soon as I am consecrated Bishop of Verdmont, whereby I become an Alien to Great Britain.



On my arrival in your State I have neither house, land or stipend to subsist me in America, and when I am there I expect to do the duties of a faithful Bishop: but to do it, I must, so far as yet appears, depend on the Convention, or individuals for support. This would be hard on them, and too grating to my mind to bear. If therefore no fixed provision can be made for me by *the whole people*, whom I am to serve with fidelity and gratitude, I shall never think of making myself a burden on the bounty and generosity of Convention and a few individuals, because I mean to labour for the public. I expect to live according to your fashion, and not according to the extravagant fashion of European Bishops, who bind not up him that is lame, look not after him that is lost, nor correct those who have wandered, yet eat of their milk and are covered with their wool.

Human life is short, and precarious, but not more so than human tempers and abilities. A continual dropping of water will perforate the adamant and rust in a few years, months, or days will eat up iron. The ablest willing benefactors of me and the Church may soon be removed to other States, or to Heaven, and leave me to the protection of the overseers of the poor. Here I can burn down the candle of life into the socket, till the Extinguisher caps the blaze with the primitive shade that existed before “Deus dixit esto Lux, et fuit lux,” without burthening individuals, or doing much good to the House of God and the offices thereof, or to myself, except that of ascending Jacob’s Ladder. Christ had not where to lay His weary head. This is my case. John the Baptist was in a wilderness, but had a leathern girdle about his loins and his food was locusts and wild honey. So much I possess not when in Vermont.

I have long since overcome the world, and been laughing at its vanity; yet I am clothed with human nature. I seek but little here below, nor want it long.

My honour, dignity and delight all rest on building up your *Prelatical* Church, not on promoting an Hierarchy, or *College* of Bishops, Arch-Bishops, Patriarchs, Cardinals, Popes, and Kings—a conclave of knaves—the invention of men—the parents of Feudalism and Aristocracy, which drove Christianity out of Asia and Africa, and our Fathers from Europe to America.



My dear Sir, think on these things, and let me know your thoughts; and then if I have a Certainty of not disgracing you and your Church by my poverty, I will go over and bless you and all denominations with that Peace of God which shall unite them in love and joy.

As to my Consecration I have no anxiety about it. St. Paul alone consecrated Titus. One Bishop is sufficient to consecrate me. Moses alone consecrated Aaron High Priest. The Kings of Denmark and Sweden consecrated their Bishops; and, as Gov. Chittenden is Chief Magistrate by voice of the People to whom God gave His power to elect Saul and David, etc. etc.—no doubt but his Excellency can make High Priests and Bishops, as well as Saul, David and the Kings of Sweden and Denmark and England, over Verdmont.—Adieu.

SAMUEL PETERS."

"LONDON, July 20th, 1796.

MY DEAR SIR,

On February 11th, 1796, I replied to your favor of 14th of November, 1795, delivered to me by Col. Graham on January 8, 1796. Since which time I have been waiting *to hear from you*, respecting the Determination of those men whom you style, "The American Bishops," but I have waited in vain. Nevertheless, I have received a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Chittenden, dated Jan. 20th, 1796, stating his Reasons why he opposed my election, and why my residence in Verdmont will be prejudicial to the Church and myself. The first reason stated is—Dr. Bass was duly elected by your Annual Convention, and had not refused the terms offered him before a Special Convention met at Manchester in February, 1794, composed only of nine Parishes out of twenty-four; and a majority of this junto elected Dr. Peters. 2dly, Dr. Peters acted a part during the American War not approved by the dissenting Churches, nor by fifteen Parishes out of twenty-four of the Episcopalians. Of course, such a character would tend to harm, not to build up the Church. 3dly, that Dr. Bass was to reside at Newburyport four or five years and serve the Church of Verdmont free of expense, till the Church Lands should be improved so as to compensate him for his labours of love during his residence in Verdmont.



I have replied to the Rev. Mr. Chittenden, and beg leave to refer you to it, of even date with this.

I find by a printed journal of a Convention at Philadelphia last September, that the application of the Convention of Vermont was taken into consideration, and the answer of those men you style, "the American Bishops," was, "that the Bishops of the Philadelphia Convention cannot with propriety consecrate a Bishop for any State until said State shall have acceded to the Jurisdiction, Doctrine, and Discipline of *the Church of the United States*."

Whatever may be meant by the Church of the United States, I find Congress have no power to establish any Church, and that each State has not established any Church. If, then there be a *Church of the United States*, it must owe its establishment to the Pope, or to the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, or to the Kirk of Scotland, or to those men you style "the American Bishops." How they came to be "the American Bishops," I have to learn; because our Arch-Bishop located Dr. Provoost, Dr. White, and Dr. Madison, to be Bishops in their respective States, viz., New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and such are their Letters of Orders. By what authority, then, have these three located Bishops of three States called their Churches, "the Church of the United States," and themselves a *College of Bishops*, with Cognizance, and Jurisdiction over the Church in each State?

This claim is a usurpation by their own confession and is nugatory as a voice crying in the wilderness. Because the Church of Vermont has not acceded to their religious System and Hierarchy-Jurisdiction, they (the Bishops) cannot with consistency consecrate a Bishop for Vermont, whose Church has not put herself under their Hierarchal Power, or Collegiate Jurisdiction.

How, then, are they "the American Bishops," but in the same sense as are the Pope, the Bishops of England, France and Spain?

When the Church of Vermont puts herself under the Jurisdiction of the Convention of Philadelphia she will cease to be the Episcopal Church of Vermont and become a fifteenth part of *the American invisible Church*, subjugated to the American three visible Bishops, who have subjected themselves as a *College of Bishops* in America to the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, in order to establish

an Aristocracy in your States, and an Hierarchy in your Church, and to fulfil the Dream of Nebuchadnezzar, whose Image had feet part of iron and part of clay and were broken in pieces by a stone cut out of a mountain without hands of men.—Daniel 2d. On the same principle the Pope in 602, and Mahomet in 620, erected their Hierarchies, which placed Bishops, Priests and Deacons under nine superior orders, not known to Melchizedek, to Aaron, nor to Christ or His Apostles and Successors. Will Congress ever establish a Church and connect it with the Civil Government? If that should happen in my native country, the Stone will separate the iron from the clay, as it has done in France, Italy and Germany, whose wind now shakes the Hierarchy and Aristocracy of all Europe, and promises to us the Primitive Episcopacy established by Jesus, the Princeps Pastorum and Bishop of our souls.

These observations I have offered to warn you and the Church in Vermont to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free under a Prelacy, of a Bishop, Priests, and Deacons, according to the orders of Melchizedek, viz. the Protassamen, the Archflamines and the Flamines, and the Jewish Priesthood, of High Priest, the Priests and Levites, in honour and commemoration of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, who are one in love, design and labour.

The Apostles were equal in spiritual power. As such they separated from Jerusalem after receiving the Holy Ghost, and ordained Bishops, Priests and Deacons, in their single and separate capacity, without ever meeting again to form a College of Bishops.

Whence, then, arose the idea of a College of Bishops as necessary to the Consecration of a Bishop? Answer: From the Pope and Conclave of Rome, from Mahomet and from Monarchs, or Despots, with the ignoble purpose of trampling under foot the Institution of Christ, ordained in His Church.

Christ was High Priest. So was each of His Apostles and their Successors. What Christian, therefore, must he be who seeks to establish a *College of Bishops above* the Chief Shepherd and Bishop of His own Flock! This was the work of Antichrist, of Deists and Arians, who brought spiritual wickedness into high places—making them Lords.

Will America give ubiquity only to a College of Bishops? Remember the Fasces of Rome only represented what the Tyrants of Rome aimed at and effected. Your Church will be free under a Bishop, Priests and Deacons; but they and your Church will be slaves under a College of Bishops, as all Bishops and Churches were under the Pope, Cardinals, Patriarchs, Arch-Bishops and a Legion of Bashaws and Ubiquitarians.

Each Church in each State is free and sovereign. The civil powers cannot rob you of your freedom. You must rob yourselves by coming into the wake of the College of Bishops at Philadelphia, or at Rome. Remember it is better to prevent an evil than to cure it. I was free born and choose freedom in my native country to slavery in Europe.

I shall see you, but not now. Farewell.

SAMUEL PETERS.

TRUMAN SQUIER, Esq."

There is no Record of the regular annual Convention of the Diocese in September 1794. It appears from the records of the Parish in Bethel that delegates were appointed by it to attend the Convention at Castleton. The Records of the Parishes in Arlington and Manchester contain nothing respecting it. It is quite probable, inasmuch as there had been a Special Convention in February, that no Convention was holden at the usual time. The days were evil. Cupidity, sectarianism and injustice were in the ascendant. The few scattered members of the Episcopal Church may naturally have been discouraged. It was almost everywhere spoken against, for the simple reasons that its doctrines were misunderstood, and that it was feeble as respected numbers and had a rightful claim to a large endowment, which others, professing all sorts of religion, or no religion in particular, very much coveted.

During the Session of the Legislature at Rutland in the Fall of 1794, after an ineffectual attempt to sequester the lands of the Propagation Society to the use of the University of Vermont, measures were taken to divert both the Society and Glebe lands from their intended and known use. The result of these measures was the passage of two Bills which confiscated the whole property of the Episcopal Church, awarding from the income of the Glebes, a miserable pro rata pittance to her Clergy.

It is deemed proper for the information of such as may desire to understand the relation of the Episcopal Church in Vermont to the State, and what in other days has been done by the Legislature to impoverish and destroy it, to insert here so much of the Journal of the Session of 1794, as has respect to the Society and Glebe reservations in the New-Hampshire Grants. Nothing is changed, with the exception in the case of Committees and the vote of members by yea and nay, where the surname only is put in the Journal, the Christian name, taken from the printed List of members, has been prefixed, and the name of the Town or County represented, also taken from the authorized List of names and places, has been added:

Tuesday, October 14th, 1794. "A Petition signed by Ira Allen and Enoch Woodbridge, Esquires, in behalf of the Corporation of the University of Vermont, stating, that in most of the towns in this State, granted by the government of New Hampshire, there is one right in each town, granted for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, etc., that the property of those rights has merged in the Legislature of this State; and as those were by the Grantor intended for public and pious uses, and have not been appropriated; and that they be made useful in extending the knowledge of the Scriptures, the Arts and Sciences, to this and the rising generations, pray that they may have liberty to bring in a Bill, appropriating all those rights to the University of Vermont, was read and the prayer thereof was granted. Accordingly, A Bill, entitled, An Act granting the lands therein described, to the University of Vermont, was read. Ordered, That it lie on the table for consideration."—Journal of 1794, p. 30.

Three days later, Friday, October 17th, we find Mr. Ira Allen, instead of calling attention to the Bill in favor of the University of Vermont, pursuing a somewhat different course, but still bent on confiscating the property of the Episcopal Church. The temper of the Legislature may not have been favorable to the University, or doubts may have arisen in his mind respecting the probable great extension of "the knowledge of the Scriptures" by the enrichment of that institution.

"On motion by Mr. I. Allen, Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor and Council be requested to join the House in



Grand-Committee to-morrow morning, to take into consideration, the propriety of disposing of the land in the several towns of this State, reserved for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts.”—Journal, 1794, p. 70.

Saturday, 18th October, “agreeable to the order of the day, His Excellency the Governor and Council, and the House of Representatives, joined in Grand Committee, to take into consideration the propriety of disposing of the rights of land in the several towns in this State, reserved for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts. His Excellency in the Chair, Ros. Hopkins, Clerk. After the Charter of the township of Rutland, issued by Benning Wentworth, Esquire, late Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, to the proprietors thereof; and, also, the Treaty of Peace, concluded between the United States and Great Britain, in 1783, were read, a desultory conversation ensued, when the Committee adjourned until the opening of the House on Tuesday Morning next.”—Journal, 1794, pp. 73, 74.

“Tuesday, 21st October, the Grand Committee met pursuant to adjournment. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the lands in this State, granted by the late Governor of New Hampshire to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, does of right belong to this State.”

“On motion of Mr. I. Allen, Resolved, That a Committee of one Member from each County, be appointed to report their opinion to this Committee, what use shall be made of the rights of land, granted for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts. Members chosen: Messieurs Jonas Galusha, Luke Knowlton, Samuel Williams, Stephen Jacob, John Strong, William Chamberlin and John White. The Committee then adjourned until the opening of the House, on Thursday Morning next.” Journal 1794, p. 94.

Tuesday, October 21st, afternoon session. “The Committee appointed on the tenth article in the arrangement of the business of the present Session, viz. That some effectual measures be taken to direct the Selectmen to take actual possession of the Glebe and propagation rights in the several towns in this State, made the following report: That it is the opinion of your Committee that the Legislature of this State have the sole right to dispose of the



right in each town, known and called by the name of the propagation right, and that they be disposed of for the use and benefit of common schools, in the several towns in which they lie.

Your Committee further report the following Bill for the better improvement of the Glebe-Lands, viz. A Bill, entitled, An Act authorizing the Select-men of the several towns, in this State, to take possession of the Glebe-Lands.

(Signed) JONAS GALUSHA, for the Committee.

Which report was read and accepted, so far as it relates to the Glebe-Lands. The Bill contained in the above report was then read.

On motion, Ordered, That it be referred to a Committee consisting of one Member from each county, to revise and amend. Members chosen: Messrs Andrew Selden, Stamford; John Bridge-man, Hinsdale; Joseph Randall, Wallingford; Elijah Robinson, Weathersfield; Stephen Hard, Salisbury; William Chamberlin, Peacham and William C. Harrington, Shelburne." *Journal*, 1794, pp. 99, 100.

Thursday, October 23d. "The Grand-Committee met pursuant to adjournment. The sub-committee made the following report, viz.

To the Grand-Committee,—

Your Committee report as their opinion that the rights of land in this State, granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts ought to be appropriated for the benefit of schools, in the respective towns, where the lands lie.

(Signed) JOHN STRONG, for Committee."

*Journal*, 1794, p. 110.

Friday, Oct. 24th. "On motion, Ordered, That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill, agreeable to the report of the Sub-Committee of the Grand Committee, viz. That the rights of land in this State, granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, ought to be appropriated for the benefit of schools in the respective towns, in which they lie. Members chosen: Messrs Timothy Todd, Arlington; Stephen Jacob, Windsor, and Jonathan Robinson, Bennington.

On motion, Resolved, That the Legislature is possessed of the right to direct to such uses as may, in their opinion, be most subservient to the support of religious worship, the several rights of land in this State, granted by the late British government, for a Glebe for the Church of England as by their law established.

On motion, Ordered, That the Committee last appointed, be a Committee to bring in a Bill agreeably to the tenor of the foregoing resolve." Journal 1794, pp. 130, 131.

Tuesday, Oct. 28th. "The Committee appointed to bring in a Bill, directing the uses of the Glebe-Rights within this State, reported, A Bill, entitled, An Act directing the uses of the rights of land in this State, heretofore granted by the British Government, as Glebes, for the benefit of the Church of England, as by their law established, which was read and accepted. The said Bill, having had a first reading, Ordered, That it lie on the table."

"The Committee appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill on the report of the Sub-Committee of the Grand-Committee, relative to the appropriation of the rights of land granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, reported a Bill, entitled, An Act, directing the appropriation of the lands in this State heretofore granted by the British Government, to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which report was read and accepted. The said Bill having had a first reading, Ordered, That it lie on the table." Journal, 1794, pp. 174, 175.

Wednesday, Oct. 29th. "A Bill, entitled An Act, directing the uses of the rights of land in this State, heretofore granted by the British Government, as Glebes, for the benefit of the Church of England, as by *their* law established was read the second time. On the question: Will the House accept said Bill? The yeas and nays being required by Mr. Gallup, those who voted in the affirmative were, Lemuel Bradley, Sunderland; Simeon Hazeltine, Sandgate; Stephen Martindale, Dorset; Jonathan Robinson, Bennington; Moses Sheldon, Rupert; Andrew Selden, Stamford; Samuel Thayer, Reedsboro; Peter Wright, Shaftsbury; Josiah Wright, Pownal; Ebenezer Allen, New-Fane; Josiah Arms, Brattleboro; Edward Aiken, Londonderry; William Bigelow,

Guilford; John Bridgeman, Hinsdale; Timothy Castle, Willmington; John Campbell, Putney; Caleb Hayward, Jamaca; David Palmer, Grafton; James Shafter, Athens; Eliakim Spooner, Westminster; David Sanderson, Rockingham; Daniel Taylor, Dummerston; Jonas Whiting, Marlboro; Asa Wheelock, Wardsboro; Jonathan Brewster, Middleton; Joseph Button, Wells; John Blanchard, Sudbury; John Bancroft, Chittenden; Emanuel Case, Shrewsbury; Abel Cooper, Clarendon; Joseph Haskell, Pawlet; Abraham Jackson, Mount Holly; Nathan Ramsey, Hubbardton; Joseph Randall, Wallingford; George Sherman, Ira; Amos Spafford, Orwell; Orange Train, Tinmouth; Samuel Williams, Rutland; John Clark, Hartford; Benjamin Emmons, Woodstock; Stephen Jacob, Windsor; Elias Keyes, Sturbridge; William Perry, Pomfret; Benjamin Perkins, Bridgewater; Frederick Rogers, Andover; Waitstill Ranney, Chester; Simeon Stevens, Springfield; Reuben Spalding, Sharon; James Smith, Cavendish; Abijah Stone, Reading; — Bradley, New Haven; — Clark, Addison; Joshua Hyde, Middlebury; Samuel Jewet, Waybridge; Henry McLaughlin, Bristol; James Moore, Shoreham; James Smith, Leicester; Joseph Willoughby, Monkton; E. Allen, South Hero; Ira Allen, Coughchester; Jonathan Butterfield, Highgate; Ezra Butler, Waterbury; Lemuel Bostwick, Hinesburgh; Martin Chittenden, Jericho; William Coit, Burlington; Jonathan Danforth, Fairfax; Benjamin Davis, Duxbury; James Gilmore, Cambridge; Silas Hathaway, St. Albans; Nathan Hutchins, North Hero; William C. Harrington, Shelburne; David Hubbell, Charlotte; Benjamin Marvin, Alburgh; Amos Mansfield, Milton; John McConnel, Johnston; Luther Mosely, Moreton; Seth Putnam, Middlesex; Jeremiah Stone, Westford; Joseph Scot, Craftsbury; Edmund Town, Fairfield; William Utey, Isle-Mott; Joshua Bayley, Newbury; John Barron, Bradford; Daniel Cahoon, Lyndon; Asher Chamberlin, Thetford; William Chamberlin, Peacham; Josiah Edson, Randolph; Experians Fisk, Brookfield; Amasa Grout, Lunenburg; Heber Gilbert, Strafford; Samuel Hazletine, Corinth; Alexander Harvey, Barnet; Nathaniel Kingsbury, Tunbridge; James More, Cabot; Isaac Nichols, Braintree; Thomas Porter, Vershire; Josiah Page, Ryegate; Asaph Sherman, Barre; Benjamin Sias, Danville; John Taplin, Berlin.

Those who voted in the negative, were, Martin Powel, Manchester; James Roberts, Whitingham; Isaac Horsford, Poultney; Elihu Sherman, Danby; Enoch Emmerson, Rochester; Oliver Gallup, Hartland; Joel Marsh, Bethel; Elias Stevens, Royalton; Joel Foster, Whiting; Stephen Hard, Salisbury; Marshal Smith, Bridport; Jabez Jones, Bolton; Seth Putnam, Middlesex; Samuel Badger, Chelsea; Haines French, Maidston.

It passed in the affirmative. Yeas, 100, Nays, 15.

Ordered, That it be engrossed, and sent to the Governor and Council for revision and concurrence, or proposals of amendment.

A Bill, entitled An Act, directing the appropriation of the lands in this State heretofore granted by the British Government to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, was read the second time and accepted.

Ordered, That it be sent to the Governor and Council for revision and concurrence, or proposals of amendment."—Journal, 1794, pp. 191, 192.

These Bills were returned from the Governor and Council, October 30th, 1794, and became laws. The following is a copy of them, as subsequently published :

"An Act directing the uses of the rights of land, in this State, heretofore granted by the British Government as Glebes, for the benefit of the Church of England, as by their law established :

Whereas, by the first principles of our government, it is contemplated, that all religious sects and denominations of Christians, whose religious tenets are consistent with allegiance to the constitution and government of this State, should receive equal protection and patronage, from the civil power. And whereas it is contemplated, in the grants heretofore made by the British Government, commonly called Glebe-Rights, that the uses of said rights should be, to the sole and exclusive purpose of building up a national religion, of a government diverse from, and inconsistent with the rights of our own : by reason whereof, and on the principles of the revolution, the property of said lands is vested in this State : therefore, *It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont*, That the rights of land, in the several towns of this State, heretofore granted under the authority of the British



Government, as *Glebes*, for the use of the Church of England, as by law established, be, and they hereby are granted, to the several and respective towns, in which such lands lie, to the use, and for the sole purpose, of appropriating the rents and profits of such lands, to and for the support of religious worship, in such towns forever. The said rents and profits to be distributed, in towns where there may be more than one resident religious teacher, for the support of such teachers, in proportion to the number of ratable polls belonging to the respective congregations, and residents, in such towns. And that it shall be the duty of the selectmen, of the respective towns where such lands lie, in the name and behalf of such towns, by action of ejectment, on the demise of the selectmen of such towns, respectively, to obtain possession of, and lease out such lands, for a term not exceeding fourteen years, at any one time. And they shall have power to demand, recover, and receive the rents and profits arising from such lands; and shall, from time to time, pay the same into the treasury of such town. Which sums, so collected and paid as aforesaid, after satisfying such reasonable demands as said selectmen may justly have, for their trouble and expense in said business, adjusted and voted by such town, shall be paid out, by order of the selectmen, for the purposes, and in the proportions, herein before expressed." *Laws of Vermont*, compiled by William Slade, Jun., pp. 194, 195.

"An Act, directing the appropriation of the Lands in this State, heretofore granted by the British Government, to 'the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.'

Whereas, by the customs and usages of nations, no aliens can or of right ought to hold real estate, in a country to whose jurisdiction they cannot be made amenable or responsible. And whereas 'the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts,' is a corporation created by, and existing within a foreign jurisdiction, to which they alone are amenable; by reason whereof, at the time of the late revolution of this and the United States, from the jurisdiction of Great Britain, all lands in this State, granted to 'the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts,' became vested in this State; and has to this time, remained unappropriated. And whereas it appears to this Legis-



lature, that said lands might be more useful, if granted for the purposes of education, than in any other way: therefore, *It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont*, That the several rights of land, in this State, granted under the authority of the British Government, previous to the Revolution, to 'the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts,' be, and the same hereby are granted, severally, to the respective towns, in which such lands lie, and to their respective use and uses forever, in manner following, viz. it shall be the duty of the selectmen, in the respective towns, in the name and behalf of such towns, if necessary, to demand, sue for, and recover the possession of such lands, and the same to lease out, as long as water runs or wood grows; and, annually at farthest, to collect the rents and profits of such lands, and the same pay into the treasury of such town, taking the treasurer's receipt therefor. Which moneys so arising, after deducting the reasonable expense and charge of the said selectmen, as the town shall legally vote to allow, shall be drawn out of the treasury, in pursuance of a vote of such town, and distributed in the several school districts in such town, annually, in proportion to the number of ratable polls in such district.

Provided, such districts, shall in the course of the year immediately preceding, have employed a school-master within such district, whose services as such, exclusive of boarding, shall have amounted to such dividend. But, such districts as shall not have employed a school-master, as aforesaid, shall not, for the year so neglecting, be entitled to any dividend. And if no district, in such town, shall have employed a school-master, as aforesaid; then such rents shall, by the said selectmen, be drawn out of the treasury, and put to use, for one year, the aggregate whereof shall be added to the next annual dividend; and so, from time to time, as the case may be." *Laws of Vermont, compiled by William Slade, Jun., pp. 193, 194.*

1795.

RUTLAND, Nov. 13th, 1795.

The Episcopal Church Convention of the State of Vermont met according to a *special* warning for that purpose.

On motion resolved, that a Secretary be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Col. Lyon nominated Truman Squier, Esq., which nomination being seconded, Voted that Truman Squier, Esq. be appointed Secretary, vice, the Rev. Daniel Barber, having moved out of this State, who accepted of his appointment.

Present :

Mr. Eleazer Baldwin, President, and the following Members of said Convention :

FAIRHAVEN:

Col. MATTHEW LYON.

PAWLET:

Capt. BENONI SMITH,                      HENRY WORSTER.

MANCHESTER:

JOB GIDDINGS, Esq.,                      PHILO SPERRY.

NOAH SMITH,

SANDGATE:

Rev. JAMES NICHOLS.

CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK.

RUTLAND:

Col. JOHN A. GRAHAM,                      COPHAN SMITH,  
BURR GRAHAM,                      ROBERT GRAHAM.

On motion, Voted that Jonathan Parker, jun., Esq. of Clarendon be requested to take a seat in the Convention.

Col. John A. Graham having laid before the Convention all his writings and his doings as their Agent to Great Britain to obtain the Consecration of the Rev. Doct. S. Peters as their Bishop elect over the Episcopal Churches of the State of Vermont, which being read, etc.

Resolved ; That the thanks of this Convention be given to Col. John A. Graham for his Generosity and Zeal in the cause of religion, and for his wise and judicious conduct, as the Agent of this Convention to Great Britain.

Resolved ; That this Convention has the highest sense of gratitude to the Rev. Dr. S. Peters, for his attention to this Church, and feel a sensible regret in not being able to procure his Consecration, by means of the construction given by the English Arch-Bishops, of the Act of the British Parliament, which provides for the consecration to the office of Bishop, of persons being subjects or citizens of Countries out of his Britanic Majesty's Dominions.

Resolved ; That Truman Squier be appointed one of the Standing Committee, vice, Rev. Daniel Barber, having moved out of the State ; likewise, Job Giddings, Esq., vice, Rev. Mr. Ogden.

Resolved ; That the President and Secretary of this Convention be and are hereby directed to write to the several Bishops of the United States, acquainting them with the Election of Dr. Peters to be Bishop of Vermont, and to inform them that the Convention of Vermont, understanding it to be Dr. Peters' wish to be consecrated in England, and taking it for granted that it would be much more convenient to have Dr. Peters receive his consecration there, than to trouble the three American Bishops to come together for the purpose, for which reasons the Convention empowered Col. John A. Graham to repair to London, and take measures for the consecration of Dr. Peters ; in which mission, although we have been unsuccessful, we still wish to know, if he will be consecrated our Bishop, and request them to confer with each other on the subject, and inform us their result, whether they will consecrate Dr. Peters our Bishop, and when and where it will be convenient for them to attend to it.

Resolved ; That Dr. Peters be acquainted with these transactions.

Resolved ; That the doings of this Convention, with Col. Graham's Report, be forthwith published.

The end of the Rutland Session.

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In a Letter, printed in Sprague's Annals of the American Episcopal Pulpit, the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Indiana states that the Rev. Dr. Peters did not apply to the American Bishops for Consecration, and then assigns several reasons why no such application was made. In regard to the matter of application, the Rt. Rev. writer was in error; and no such reasons as those contained in his letter appear in the Journal of the General Convention of 1795. At this distance of time it is quite difficult to tell precisely what were the sentiments of that Body of venerable men any further than the Record of their action, which they have left, may plainly show. Sprague's Ann. Am. Ep. Pulpit, p. 196.

Previous to the meeting of the Special Convention at Rutland, November 13th, 1795, some one had forwarded the papers respecting the election of the Rev. Dr. Peters, and asking for his Consecration as Bishop of Vermont, by the College of Bishops in this country, to Bishop White, President of the House of Bishops. At the time of this Convention, the question respecting the Consecration of Dr. Peters had been decided in the General Convention at Philadelphia; but the knowledge of this fact cannot have reached the members of the Convention at the time of the Session in Rutland. The Resolution of the Convention above given doubtless contemplated the pressing of that application to a favorable issue.

On the third day of the Session of the General Convention, at Philadelphia, September 10th, 1795, in the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, "A letter was received from the Right Rev. Dr. White of the House of Bishops, enclosing sundry testimonials, respecting the Rev. Dr. Samuel Peters, as Bishop elect of the Church in the State of Vermont, which were read, and ordered to lie on the table." September 18th, being the 9th day of the Session of the General Convention, the following Resolution passed the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies respecting these testimonials: "Resolved; That the testimonials from the State of Vermont respecting the Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Peters,



sent by the House of Bishops, be returned to them, with a request, that they will answer it in whatever manner they shall think best."

The Journal of the House of Bishops of the same date—September 18, 1795, the 9th day of the Session—contains the following minute and decision in regard to the Bishop elect of Vermont: "The house received from the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, papers respecting the election of Dr. Peters to be Bishop in the State of Vermont."

"The President of this House is desired to give such an answer as the nature of the case requires, and particularly to mention, in the said answer, that the Bishops cannot with propriety consecrate a Bishop for the Church in any State, until such Church shall have acceded to the general Ecclesiastical Constitution of the Church in the United States."

Here it seems fit to add, in brief, what is known of the Rev. Samuel Peters, LL. D.

Samuel Peters, a son of John Peters, a distant relative of Hugh Peters, was born in Hebron, Connecticut, November 20, 1735. He graduated at Yale College in 1757. Having devoted a due length of time to theological reading, he went to England, and was ordained in London, Deacon and Priest, in 1759. In 1760, he returned to this country, and took charge of the Church in Hebron. During about 14 years, he continued in the peaceful and exemplary discharge of his clerical duties in this parish. At the approach of the Revolution, on account of his high Tory views, he became very obnoxious to the people. Having suffered much opposition and great indignity and violence from two mobs, he fled from his native town to Boston. From this place in the month of September, 1774, he sailed to England. Soon after his arrival in that country, he received from the Government a pension and a grant for his property which had been confiscated by the Americans. For reasons which are not now known, he did not receive there any appointment to the discharge of his proper duty as a Priest in the Church. During his residence in England, he received the Degree of Doctor of Laws from one of the Scotch Universities.

In 1794, about twenty years after leaving this country, Dr.



Peters was elected Bishop of Vermont. To the older Churchmen in this State, he had been favorably known. In 1768, he visited Vermont, and did duty as a Missionary for eight weeks. During this time in which he visited most of the settlements, as he states in his life of Hugh Peters, he baptized the incredible number of nearly twelve hundred adults and children. In 1771, he was on Missionary duty in the western part of New Hampshire and organized the church in Claremont and baptized a number of children. The reasons why Dr. Peters was not consecrated to the office of Bishop in this state, as far as they can now be ascertained, appear in the various documents inserted in this Journal, under the dates of 1794 and 1795.

During the next eleven years after this election to the office of Bishop of Vermont, Dr. Peters continued to reside in England. On account of some disagreement between Mr. Pitt and himself, Dr. Peters was struck from the pension list in 1803 or 1804. Having obtained, in connection with Dr. Lettsom of London, from Capt. Jonathan Carver, a noted Indian traveller, the grant of a tract of land one hundred miles square, situated on the East side of the Mississippi River, at the Falls of St. Anthony, he returned to this country in 1805. Although sought for many years with much trouble and wearisomeness, Dr. Peters never obtained possession of this grant. For most of the time, after his return from England, his means of living were small and uncertain, derived from fictitious land sales and charity. He died in New York, April 19th, 1826, in the ninety-first year of his age. His body was removed to Hebron for burial among his kindred and former associates. Samuel Jarvis Peters, of New Orleans, a grandson, erected a handsome monument over his grave in 1841.

The Hon. John S. Peters, M. D. LL. D., late Governor of Connecticut, a nephew of the Rev. Dr. Peters, says in regard to him that "he had an unusually commanding personal appearance. He was full six feet high, remarkably erect, of a large and muscular body, but not fat; his eyes were blue, and his face strongly marked by the small-pox. In his private intercourse he was animated, even loquacious; and the great amount of anecdote which he had at command rendered him a most entertaining companion. He had an uncommonly active mind, and had acquired a large

store of varied information. He had an iron will as well as an iron frame; and whatever he undertook he pursued with a spirit of indomitable perseverance. His ruling passion was ambition; but though he made some noise in the world, he probably never reached any high point of distinction to which he aspired. As a preacher, he held a highly respectable rank: his sermons were written with care, and delivered in a manly and impressive manner. He loved kings, admired the British Government, and revered the Hierarchy. In his domestic and private relations, he was everything that could be desired." Sprague's Ann. Am. Ep. Pulpit, pp. 191—195. Thompson's Vermont, Part II, p. 194. Churchman's Magazine, vol. ii, p. 177.

## 1796.

ARLINGTON, Sept. 21, 1796.

The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church of the State of Vermont met according to appointment.

Mr. Eleazer Baldwin was elected President, and Truman Squier, Secretary.

The following Members were present, viz.

## ARLINGTON:

CALEB DAYTON,	ZADOC HARD,
NATHAN CANFIELD, Esq.	TYRUS HURD.

## SANDGATE:

ABRAHAM BRISTOL,	THEOPHILUS HURD.
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## MANCHESTER:

SAMUEL FRENCH,	ABEL ALLIS, M. D.
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## BENNINGTON:

GEORGE McELEHERON.

## BETHEL:

PHILANDER CHASE.

On motion, Messrs. Luther Stone, Peleg Stone, and Andrew Hawley were invited to take seats in the Convention.

Adjourned until the afternoon Service is performed.

Met according to adjournment.

On motion, voted, that the number for a Standing Committee shall be seven persons.

The following Members were duly chosen, viz.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden,	Timothy Durkee,
The Rev. Russel Catlin,	Stephen Hard,
The Rev. James Nichols,	David Lewis,
	Samuel Bliss.

Resolved ; That a Committee of two persons be appointed to attend the General Convention. The vote being taken it appeared that the Rev. Russel Catlin and Col. Matthew Lyon were duly elected.

Mr. John Whitlock was chosen Treasurer.

*Mr. Philander Chase* produced his Credentials of his character and his profession in life, wishing to be admitted a Deacon in Orders, etc. The papers of Mr. Chase were read ; and, by the Convention he was approved of for a Candidate to be admitted into Holy Orders.

Voted, that the next Convention shall meet at Manchester, and that Divine Service shall begin at 10 o'clock forenoon.

The Rev. Russel Catlin was nominated and requested to preach the Sermon.

Adjourned, sine die.

Philander Chase, whose name appears in the foregoing journal as a candidate for Holy Orders, was born in Cornish, N. H., December 14, 1775. He entered Dartmouth College in 1791 and graduated in 1795. During his college course he became acquainted with the Liturgy of the Episcopal Church, and was guided in his enquiries by the counsel of the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden and the Rev. J. C. Ogden. Leaving the Congregationalists, he became a decided Churchman. While acting as a school-master in Bethel, Vermont, he officiated as a lay reader in the little parish in that town. He pursued his theological studies at Al-

bany, N. Y. In 1798, Mr. Chase was ordained Deacon, in St. George's Chapel, New York, by Bishop Provost; and a Priest, by the same, November 10, 1799. For several years he devoted himself, amidst many privations, to missionary work in western New York. In 1805 he went to New Orleans and occupied himself zealously in organizing the Church in that city. Returning north in 1811, he became the Rector of Christ Church, Hartford, Conn. In 1817, he went to the State of Ohio. A Diocese having been formed, he was elected Bishop over it and was consecrated in St. James' Church, Philadelphia, February 11, 1819. In 1823 he visited England for the purpose of raising funds for the establishment of a College and Theological Seminary in Ohio. He received donations in England, to the amount of \$30,000. On his return, in 1824, he purchased 8000 acres of land, and gave to the institution which he founded, the name of Gambier and Kenyon, in honor of two English noblemen. On account of difficulties and misunderstandings in regard to the management of this property, he resigned the episcopate of Ohio in 1831. From Ohio he removed into Michigan and engaged in missionary work. In 1835 he was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Illinois. Soon after this, he again visited England and collected \$10,000 towards purchasing land and founding a College. In 1838 he founded Jubilee College at Robin's Nest. Here he spent the remainder of his life. He died September 20, 1852. Keenly sagacious in reading character, quick in availing himself of opportunities, full of zeal and determination, unwearied in laboring for the cause of religion and the interests of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Chase left his impress upon the western country, and deserves honorable mention as a pioneer bishop.



1797.

MANCHESTER, Sept. 20th, 1797.

The Protestant Episcopal Convention of the State of Vermont convened at the dwelling-house of Doct. Abel Allis, in said Manchester.

Eleazer Baldwin was elected President and Truman Squier, Secretary.

Elkanah Cobb was appointed Secretary, pro tem.

Voted, that the following persons be appointed a Standing Committee, to wit ;

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden,	Job Giddings, Esq.,
The Rev. Russel Catlin,	Capt. Benoni Smith,
Samuel Bliss,	Nathan Canfield, Esq.
Stephen Hard, Esq.,	

Job Giddings, Esq. was, also, appointed Treasurer.

Voted, that the Rev. Amos Pardee and Zadoc Hard be appointed a Committee to the General Convention, at Philadelphia.

Voted, that the next Convention should be holden at Pawlet, and convene at the dwelling-house of Capt. Benoni Smith, in said Pawlet.

The end of the annual Session of said Convention.

Attest, Truman Squier, Sec'y as taken from Mr. Cobb's Minutes.

1798.

PAWLET, Sept. 19th, 1798.

At a Meeting of the Protestant Episcopal Convention of the State of Vermont, being duly convened at Capt. Benoni Smith's dwelling-house, in said Pawlet, the Rev. Ammi Rogers read prayers.

Then the Convention proceeded to elect the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, President, and Truman Squier, Secretary.

The following Members were present, who took their seats, to wit.

PAWLET:

The Rev. AMOS PARDEE,      CEELY BROWN.

Capt. BENONI SMITH,

CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK,

WELLS:

DAVID LEWIS,

MANCHESTER:

PHILO SPERRY,

ARLINGTON:

CALEB CAYTON.

The Rev. Ammi Rogers, of Ballston, and Philander Chase of Bethel, and Mr. Abraham Bristol of Granville were invited to take seats in the Convention.

On motion, the following Members were chosen Standing Committee:

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden,      Nathan Canfield, Esq.,

The Rev. Amos Pardee,      Capt. Benoni Smith.

Samuel Bliss,

Job Giddings, Esq. was chosen Treasurer.

A Resolution appointing two Members to attend the General Convention at Philadelphia was passed. The Members chosen were—

The Rev. Amos Pardee,      Zadoc Hard.

On motion, voted, that the Secretary be requested to furnish a Certificate, to each of the Deputies appointed by the Convention, with a proper seal affixed thereto, signed by himself as Secretary to the Convention, which Certificate shall be considered sufficient evidence of their appointment.

On Motion, voted, that the Secretary be directed to call a Special Meeting of this Convention by Circular Letters to each of the Parishes within his knowledge, to have them send their Delegates to attend, if he finds the interest of the Church to require it.

The Rev. Ammi Rogers of Ballston, N. Y., was appointed, and requested to preach at the Convention to be holden at Manchester on the 3d Wednesday of August next.

Adjourned, sine die.

TRUMAN SQUIER, Secretary.

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The vote in the foregoing Journal in regard to calling a Special Convention, if the Secretary should deem such a step necessary, has respect, no doubt, to the suit of the Select Men of Manchester against the Rev. Daniel Barber, then pending in the Circuit Court of the United States. This was a suit of ejectment brought by the Select Men to recover the Glebe, which was at the time of its commencement in the possession of Mr. Barber. It was brought under the Law of 1794, which gave the Select Men of those towns in which there were Glebe Rights, power to take possession of them, to lease them for a term of years, not exceeding fourteen, and to distribute the income, in case there was more than one religious teacher in the respective towns, "for the support of such teachers, in proportion to the number of ratable polls belonging to the respective congregations, and residents in such towns."

The ground taken by the prosecution was, that the Glebe Grants were void because the Grantees named in the Charter were not in existence to receive. Against this it was contended, that at the time of the Grants, the Church of England had a corporate existence. The Court—Patterson, Judge, decided in favor of the defendant, pronouncing the Act of 1794 unconstitutional and void. No appeal was taken from this decision. *Church Review*, vol. iv, pp. 586, 587.

But inasmuch as the early decisions in the Circuit Court were not reported, we know little of what was said by the learned Judge. He is reported by a distinguished jurist to have remarked in conclusion, that "Legislatures are not omnipotent. They cannot take this man's property and give it to that man." In his day this may have been true. *Church Review*, vol. iv, p. 587.

Among the papers belonging to the Church in Manchester the following official report is found :

“ Samuel Pettibone ex dem Select Men of Manchester <i>vs.</i> Daniel Barber.	}	Judgt. of Cir. Court, October Term 1798.
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Ejectment for lot No. 44, first div. 100 acres of the Glebe in Manchester.

Verdict, that the deft. is not guilty, etc.

Judgt. for deft. to receive his costs, ‘taxed by consent at forty-two dollars and fifteen cents.’

Extract from the record.

J. GOVE, Clk.

June 23, 1823.”

In obedience to the above Decision at the Session of the Legislature in 1799, the following Act was passed, repealing the Act of 1794.

*“ It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That an act,”* directing the use of the rights of land in this State, heretofore granted by the British government, as glebes, for the benefit of the Church of England as by law established, “be, and hereby is repealed.”

*Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby expressly declared,* That the repealing clause, aforesaid, shall not be construed to extend to, or in any way affect, any person or persons who are in possession of any lot, belonging to such glebe right, by virtue of a lease from the selectmen, as directed by law, of any town, where any such lands lie. And it is hereby declared, that the selectmen, where any such lands lie, are prohibited from leasing any such lands, in future.”

This act was passed, November 5, 1799.



1799.

MANCHESTER, August 25th, 1799.

At a meeting of the Protestant Episcopal Convention of the State of Vermont, being duly convened at said Manchester, on the third Wednesday of August, A. D. 1799, the Rev. Amos Pardee read prayers, and the Rev. Ammi Rogers, of Ballston, preached the Sermon.

Afterwards the Convention proceeded to the dwelling-house of Doct. Abel Allis in said Manchester; and said Convention, being then and there duly met, made choice of the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, President, and Truman Squier, Secretary.

The following Members were present and took their seats accordingly, to wit.

ARLINGTON:

NATHAN CANFIELD, Esq.	CALEB DAYTON,
ZADOC HARD,	ANDREW HAWLEY.

SANDGATE:

Doct. JOHN WATKINS,	Capt. THEOP. RANSON.
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SUNDERLAND:

JOSIAH LOCKWOOD.

MANCHESTER:

JOB GIDDINGS,	JABEZ HAWLEY,
PHILO SPERRY,	SAMUEL FRENCH.

DORSET:

ASA BALDWIN,	DAVID GILLETT.
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RUPERT:

GROVE MOORE, Esq.

PAWLET:

CELEY BROWN,	HENRY WOOSTER.
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WELLS:

DAVID LEWIS.

CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK.

SALISBURY:

STEPHEN HARD, Esq.

The Rev. Mr. Rogers of Ballston, Doct. Smith of Stillwater, Abijah Hubbell of Salem, and Mr. Whitlock of Ballston, were invited to take seats in this Convention,

Also on motion, voted, that Messrs. Aaron Gaylor Ferris of Sandgate, John French of Dorset, Henry Ballis, Benjamin Purdy and Alexander Prindle of Manchester be invited to take seats.

Job Giddings, Esqr. was duly elected Treasurer.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden,      Stephen Hard, Esqr.,

The Rev. Amos Pardee,              John Whitlock,

The Rev. Russel Catlin,

were elected a Standing Committee.

A letter from William Smith, Secretary of the Convention of the Diocese of Connecticut, written by the order of the Bishop and Clergy of that Diocese, to the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Vermont, respecting the Rev. James Nichols, was read and ordered to lie on the table for consideration.

The aforesaid Letter being taken up and read, the following Resolution was passed, viz. That this Convention do disapprove of the conduct of the Rev. James Nichols, and that they do recommend to the several Churches in this State not to employ him as a Clergyman until he procures a Certificate from the Standing Committee that he has reformed his conduct and that he will do honor to his profession.

Messrs Amos Pardee and Truman Squier were chosen Deputies to the General Convention, and, also, a Committee to form a Constitution for this Convention.

Resolved, That this Convention return their thanks to the Rev. Mr. Rogers for his services; and that the Rev. Messrs. Chittenden and Pardee be appointed a Committee to wait on him with this Resolution, and request a Copy of his Sermon, this day delivered before the Convention, for the Press.

There being no further business, the Convention adjourned to the third Wednesday in August next, at Arlington.

1800.

At a Meeting of the Protestant Episcopal Convention of the State of Vermont, being duly convened at *Arlington on the third Wednesday in August, A. D. 1800*, the Rev. Daniel Barber read Prayers, and the Rev. Henry Whitlock preached the Sermon.

Afterwards the Convention proceeded to the usual business of the Meeting. The Rev. Daniel Barber was chosen President pro tem., and the following Members took their seats, viz.

## SANDGATE:

THEOPHILUS RANSOM,	JOHN WATKINS,
THEOPHILUS HURD,	JAMES BRISTOL.

## MANCHESTER:

JOB GIDDINGS,	JOSHUA FRENCH,
JABEZ HAWLEY,	JOHN RICHARDSON.

## RUPERT:

GROVE MOORE, Esq.

## ARLINGTON:

ZADOCK HARD,	TYRUS HURD.
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## CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was chosen President of the Convention for the year ensuing, and Truman Squier, Secretary.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Amos Pardee, the Rev. Russell Catlin, John Whitlock, and Bethuel Chittenden, were chosen a Standing Committee.

The Rev. Henry Whitlock and Zadock Hard were chosen Deputies to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States to be holden at Trenton, New Jersey.

Job Giddings was appointed the Treasurer of the Convention.

On motion, The Articles of Faith as proposed by the General Convention were read. (a)

Voted, That an Application be made to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, that they will be pleased to give a power of Attorney to certain Trustees in this State, or any other they shall choose, for the purpose of taking the avails of each Right of Land, granted to them in this State, and appropriating the same to the Church Clergy officiating in this State, in such proportion as they shall direct, or in any other way they shall direct.

Judge Livermore, of Holderness, N. H.,  
Nathaniel Adams, of Portsmouth, N. H.,  
Ambrose Cosset, of Claremont, N. H.,  
Truman Squier, of Manchester, Ver.,  
Oliver Gallup, of Hartland, Ver.,

were elected and recommended as Trustees. (b)

Voted, to appoint a committee to lease the Glebe Lands, whereupon,

Job Giddings, the Rev. Amos Pardee, Zadock Hard, Stephen Hard, the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, Nathaniel Bostwick and John Newton, were appointed such a Committee.

Resolved, by this Convention, That the Secretary make out a Power of Attorney in behalf of said Convention, empowering its Committee to lease said Lands. (c)

Voted, that the next Meeting of this Convention be holden at Sandgate on the third Wednesday in August next; and that a notice of said Meeting be published in three different Newspapers two months previous to the time of the next Meeting. Adjourned, sine die.

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(a.) This action of the Convention has reference to what was done in the General Convention of 1799, in respect to Articles of Religion.

Saturday June 15th, 1799, in the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, "A resolution was proposed by Mr. Bisset, that the



Convention now proceed to the framing of Articles of Religion for this Church.

The question was taken by Yeas, and Nays, as follows :

Clergy : Massachusetts, No ; Connecticut, Yea ; Rhode-Island, Yea ; New-York, Yea ; New-Jersey, Yea ; Pennsylvania, Yea ; Virginia, No ; Delaware, Yea.

Laity : Connecticut, Yea ; New-Jersey, Yea ; Pennsylvania, Yea ; Virginia, No.

So it was carried in the affirmative.

Resolved, That the Committee shall consist of a member from each State now represented, who were chosen, and were as follows :

Massachusetts, Dr. Walter ; Connecticut, Dr. Smith ; New-York, Mr. Bisset ; New-Jersey, Mr. Waddell ; Pennsylvania, Dr. Andrews ; Delaware, Mr. Clay ; Virginia, Dr. Bracken."

"Tuesday Morning June 18 ; The Chairman of the Committee on the Articles, reported *seventeen* Articles of Religion, which were read. Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Bisset,

Resolved unanimously, That on account of the advanced period of the present session, and the thinness of the Convention, the consideration of the Articles now reported and read be postponed, and that the Secretary transcribe the Articles into the Journal of this Convention, to lie over for the consideration of the next General Convention."

(b.) No information is now possessed in regard to the Application to the Propagation Society contemplated by this vote. —It is well known, however, that, if it was made, it was not successful. This decided tone and action by the Convention in regard to the lands in question, shows a knowledge of the rights of the Church, and a calm and settled purpose to secure them. Some of the members of this Convention were men that could not easily be intimidated nor effectually baffled.

(c.) To what extent this Committee acted one cannot now tell. The probability is that such of the Glebe Rights as were in those towns in which there was an Episcopal Church were at once leased. We learn from a letter of the Rev. Amos Pardee, written in 1839, giving an account of his labors in Vermont, that he proceeded to lease the Glebe Lands in those parishes under his care and that he received the rents of the same.

1801.

The Protestant Episcopal Convention of the State of Vermont being duly convened on the third Wednesday of August, A. D. 1801, at Sandgate, proceeded to the usual business of said Meeting.

Clergy present :

The Rev. RUSSELL CATLIN, The Rev. AMOS PARDEE.

The Rev. Mr. Catlin read Prayers, and the Rev. Mr. Pardee preached the Sermon.

The Rev. Russell Catlin was chosen President pro tem.

Members present :

ARLINGTON.

NATHAN CANFIELD,

ZADOCK HARD.

CURTIS HAWLEY,  
JAMES LOCKWOOD,  
CALEB DAYTON.

} who took seats by Invitation.

SANDGATE.

AARON G. FERRIS,

GEORGE PECK,

THEOPHILUS RANSOM.

MANCHESTER.

JOSHUA FRENCH,

TRUMAN SQUIER.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was reelected President for the year ensuing, and the Rev. Amos Pardee was chosen Secretary.

Job Giddings was elected Treasurer.

Voted, to appoint a Standing Committee.

The members chosen were,

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden,

The Rev. Russel Catlin,

The Rev. Amos Pardee.

Voted, to appoint Deputies to the General Convention to be holden at Trenton, New Jersey.

The members chosen were,

The Rev. Amos Pardee,

Truman Squier.

Voted, That the next Annual Convention be holden at Rutland in the County of Rutland, on the *Third Wednesday in September*, 1802, and that the time of said Meeting be duly notified by advertisement in the Bennington, Rutland, Vergennes and Windsor Newspapers six weeks next previous to said meeting.

Adjourned, sine die.

Test. TRUMAN SQUIER, Secretary.

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The Deputies of the General Convention appointed by this Meeting did not, so far as now appears, attend to the duty assigned them. During the Session of the General Convention at Trenton, there was a matter introduced and carried through of very serious import to the Diocese of Vermont.

Friday, September 11th, 1801, the third day of the Session,—“The Rev. Dr. Parker, Rev. Mr. Shelton, and James Clark, Esq. were appointed a Committee to consider certain memorials presented to this House from Churches in New-Hampshire and Vermont, and to report thereon.”

Saturday, September 12th, “The Committee appointed to consider the memorials from certain Churches in New-Hampshire and Vermont, made the following report, which was read, and unanimously adopted, viz:

Report of the Committee:

It appears from the memorials of certain Churches in the western part of the State of New-Hampshire, and the eastern part of the State of Vermont, that, having agreed to and adopted the General Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, they are desirous of forming a junction, and uniting themselves, for the purpose of holding Conventions, and effecting a due organization of their Churches; and, on account of the impracticability of joining with the other Churches in said respective States, they are desirous of being considered as a separate district. Your Committee are of opinion, that the 8th Canon of 1795, militates against the wishes of said memorialists, but

that their local situation requires a dispensation from the operation of said Canon, more especially as many valuable tracts of land have been granted to the Episcopal Church in those towns, and others in the vicinity, which land requires the attention of a duly organized Church for its preservation and improvement. Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that, from their peculiar circumstances, they ought to be allowed to put themselves under the jurisdiction of a Bishop of one of the neighboring States, until a Bishop shall be duly consecrated and settled in said States, as the only measure that can relieve them under their peculiar situation and circumstances.

(Signed by order,) S. PARKER."

During the same day the following action was had in the House of Bishops in respect to the subject of this report: "This House received from the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies applications from certain Churches of New-Hampshire and Vermont, respecting certain arrangements on account of their local circumstances, which papers were accompanied with a resolution of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies concerning the same. This House concurred in the resolution."

What was done in accordance with this permission, or, as it is termed by the New-Hampshire Convention, "dispensation from the eighth Canon of 1795, granted to the Rev. Daniel Barber," as far as has been ascertained is here inserted. Although the transactions extend through several years, yet it is deemed best to put the whole together in this place. The extracts from the unpublished Journals of the Diocese of New-Hampshire have been kindly made by the Rev. William S. Perry then of Nashua.

"At a Convention of the Clergy and Delegates of the Protestant Episcopal Churches in New-Hampshire held at Concord the twenty-fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two, Present, Reverend Joseph Willard, Rector of St. John's Church, in Portsmouth. Honorable James Sheafe and Nathaniel Adams, Esq. Delegates from St. John's Church, Portsmouth; Reverend Robert Fowle, Rector of the Church in Holderness. Honorable Arthur Livermore and Richard Shepard, Esq. Delegates from the Church in Holderness; Reverend Daniel Barber, Rector of the Church in Claremont;



Dudley Chase, Esq. and Mr. Nathaniel Hall, Delegates from the Church in Cornish."

"Honorable Arthur Livermore was appointed Chairman of this Convention. Nathaniel Adams, Esq. was appointed Secretary to the Convention. Rev. Joseph Willard, Rev. Daniel Barber and Nathaniel Adams, Esq., were appointed a Committee to draw up Rules of Order."

After the Rules of Order, reported by this Committee had been adopted by the Convention, "The Rev. Mr. Barber and Dudley Chase, Esq., produced a Vote from the Convention of the Churches in the Western part of New-Hampshire and Eastern part of Vermont, authorizing them to confer with this Convention on such measures as may probably tend to unite all the Protestant Episcopal Churches within the two States in one Diocese. Which being duly considered,

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Convention that they are not authorized by their respective Churches to act upon the above measures."

"Rev. Mr. Fowle, Rev. Mr. Barber and Rev. Mr. Willard were appointed a Committee to draw up a Constitution for the Protestant Episcopal Churches in New-Hampshire." This Committee reported a form of a Constitution which was adopted and signed by the members of the Convention. The Rev. Daniel Barber did not sign it: The delegates from the Church in Cornish did. Having directed the Secretary to send copies of the Constitution to the several Churches in the State for approval or disapproval, the Convention adjourned.

The following Letter of the Rev. Daniel Barber to the Rev. Dr. Parker of Boston, copied by the Rev. William S. Perry, of Nashua, N. H. from the original in his possession, affords some information in regard to the course of the Rev. Mr. Barber, and the operations of this ecclesiastical organization in the valley of the Connecticut.

"CLAREMONT, October 18th, 1802.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—

I have requested Esquire Dunbar to deliver this. He is a gentleman of reputation. Any civility shewn him will be accepted as done to myself.

The active part you took at the General Convention in favor of our Petition to be constituted a District with the Eastern part of Vermont meets my warmest gratitude. By it, you have also most effectually secured the affection and esteem, not only of this Church, but all those in the Eastern part of Vermont. Bishop Bass, by his imprudent ordinations has done us much harm. It is said by many, he will ruin the Churches. This was the only reason these Churches would not consent to join Massachusetts, thus being under one Bishop. It was observed by many principal members *at our late Convention*, 'was Doctor Parker Bishop we would join Massachusetts.' For the present we have put ourselves under Connecticut.

It would be extremely pleasing, if you could make a visit in this part of the Country. As to the present situation of the Churches, etc., I shall refer you to Esqr. Dunbar who is a member of this Church. The dissenting minister has just resigned, and the probability is the parish will all come over to the Church.

I wish, if convenient, you would send me a few of the late Abstracts from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. I have thoughts of making application to the said Society for a right or two of their Lands in Vermont to be given to this Church. What think you of it? What a pity that so much property as that Society holds in Vermont should lie useless and unimproved for the purpose for which it was granted.

I wish you would give me your thoughts on that or any other topic which may be useful or in any measure profitable.

I am Dear Sir, With the highest esteem,

Your Friend and Brother,

DANIEL BARBER."

The REVEREND DR. PARKER.

At the next Convention held at Concord January 19, 1803, the Rev. Mr. Barber was not in attendance. In this Convention, Ithamur Chase, Esq. was the Delegate from Cornish. The Rev. Samuel Mead, Rector of the Church in Alstead was present in the Convention, and elected a member of the Standing Committee. After the appointment of Committees "to take possession of all the Glebe Lands in the Counties of Cheshire, Grafton and Strafford, and to lease them for such rents and for such term of

time as they may think proper, not exceeding ten years, the following votes were passed;

“Voted, That the Standing Committee be desired to give notice to the several Churches that at the next Convention the question will be considered whether an invitation shall be given to the Bishop of some other Diocese to visit and perform the Episcopal Office in this State as occasion shall require.”

“Voted, That the Secretary write to the Church in Claremont, informing them that the Convention are desirous of an union of all the Churches in the State, and wish by all means to cultivate harmony and good fellowship among them and request their acceding to the Constitution.”

In 1804, the Convention of New-Hampshire met at Hopkinton. The Standing Committee was directed to address a Letter to the General Convention, informing them of the regular organization of the Diocese, and requesting that “the dispensation granted to the Rev. Daniel Barber” might be recalled. For some reason, the Committee failed to do the duty assigned them. In the Convention of 1807, holden at Concord on the third Wednesday in August, a vote similar to that of 1804, was passed. Accordingly the Standing Committee presented before the General Convention of 1808 the following communication :

“To the Bishops, the Clerical and Lay Deputies of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America in General Convention assembled :

RIGHT REVEREND, REVEREND AND BELOVED :

At a Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Churches in the State of New-Hampshire holden in the year of our Lord 1804, the Standing Committee of that year were authorized, by a resolution for that purpose, to address a Letter to the next General Convention, which by accident was not complied with. A similar one was passed at the last Convention of the said Church, of which the inclosed is a copy, empowering the Standing Committee of the present year to perform that duty. In compliance with which they have now the pleasure to inform the General Convention that the Churches in the State of New-Hampshire have acceded to the general Ecclesiastical Constitution, Canons and regulations of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of Amer-

ica; that they have formed an Ecclesiastical Constitution for the government of the Episcopal Churches in this State, and that a State Convention has been regularly holden conformably thereto for three years past. But, with extreme regret, they are obliged to say that a Dispensation from the eighth Canon of 1795, granted to the Rev. Daniel Barber, by which a Convention was formed in the western part of this State, and the eastern part of the state of Vermont, militates greatly against the harmony of the Episcopal Churches in this State. It was granted without the knowledge of the Churches in this State and without any notice that such a separation was desired or contemplated, and, of course, without their concurrence. It causes a division among our Churches, which subjects us to great inconvenience, especially while our numbers are small. It produces a contention with respect to the property of the Churches in this State in the disposition of which we suppose the General Convention could have no authority and we believe no wish to interfere. We believe that the General Convention had no other than a pure and benevolent design in granting that dispensation, and, therefore, when we state that it has been in its effects so injurious to the prosperity and happiness of the Episcopal Churches in this State, we have reason to think and confidently hope, that the obstacle to these great and desirable ends will most cordially be removed by the General Convention, and that their fatherly affection will be extended to us by giving the eighth Canon above mentioned its full and happy effect on our Churches in this State, and that the dispensation may be rescinded.

In compliance with the 16th Canon of 1789, we send the annual list of Churches in this State.

With high respect and sentiments of duty we are, etc.,

ROBERT FOWLE,	ARTHUR LIVERMORE,
JAMES SHEAFE,	NATHANIEL ADAMS,

Standing-Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Churches in New-Hampshire."

This ecclesiastical organization appears, from the preceding extracts, to have included only one Parish on the New-Hampshire side of the Connecticut. It is not now known how many parishes on the Vermont side were embraced in it. Something material



may be gathered from the Records of Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls. Several extracts will be given.

"Rockingham, July 30, 1801. The members of the Protestant Episcopal Society in Rockingham are hereby notified to meet at the dwelling-house of S. Cutler, on Saturday the 8th of August next, at 6 o'clock, P. M. to choose Delegates to meet with a Convention to be holden at Claremont on the 14th of the same month, for the purpose of forming a union of the several Episcopal Societies in New-Hampshire, on the east, and Vermont on the west side of the Connecticut River; and, also, for the purpose of adopting the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

Signed, ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Clerk."

Written in pencil under this warrant; "No minutes of this meeting to be found. A. F." Records, p. 24.

At a meeting of the Society regularly called April 11, 1803, after other acts the following votes were passed;

"Voted, That William Page, Dr. Campbell, Peter Evans, and Samuel Cutler be Members to sit in Convention to be holden at Rockingham, on the first Wednesday in September next."

"Voted, That Samuel Cutler make provision for the entertainment of the members of the Convention."

Signed, SAMUEL CUTLER, Clerk.

Records, p. 19.

At an adjourned annual meeting held June 5, 1804, the sixth item of business transacted is noted as follows:

"Appointed Dr. Campbell, Peter Evans and Samuel Cutler, Members to attend the General Convention to be holden at Weathersfield in August next." Records, p. 19.

June 4, 1805, at an adjourned annual meeting, the sixth item of business recorded is the following:

"Appointed Dr. Campbell, Peter Evans, Dr. Page and Samuel Cutler, Members to attend the General Convention to be holden at Westminster on the last Wednesday of August next." Records, p. 20.

At an adjourned meeting August 4, 1806, "appointed Dr. Campbell, Peter Evans, and Samuel Cutler, Members to attend

the General Convention to be holden at Claremont the present year." Records, p. 21.

August 12, 1807, the sixth and seventh items of business transacted in the Parish meeting were the following:

"Chose Peter Evans, Alexander Campbell and Quartus Morgan, Delegates to attend the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Churches to be holden at Hartland, on the 3d Wednesday in September next."

"Voted, That fifteen Dollars be appropriated to defray the expenses of the Rt. Rev. Bp. Jarvis in attending the Churches in September next, and that the Wardens be authorized to draw it from the Treasury." Records, pp. 22, 23.

The parish meeting August 13, 1808, "chose Deacon Evans, Dr. A. Campbell, Alex. Byington and Samuel Cutler to attend the Convention to be holden at Rockingham on the third Wednesday of September next." Records, pp. 23, 24.

The parish meeting August 19, 1809, "chose Dr. Campbell, Peter Evans, Peter Evans jr., and Solomon Hapgood, Delegates to the Annual Convention." The Record is the same for August 23, 1810. Records, pp. 31, 33.

The parish meeting September 4, 1811, "chose Dr. Campbell, Samuel Cutler and Peter Evans to represent the Society in any Episcopal Convention that may be holden in Vermont the ensuing year." Records, p. 35.

The action and phraseology are nearly the same as that under the last date, for several years subsequently.

The following extracts from the Records of the Parish in Weathersfield may properly be inserted here as adding somewhat to our knowledge of this anomalous and ill-advised ecclesiastical organization.

The Parish meeting, at Weathersfield, July 7th, 1802, "Voted and chose Oliver Kidder, Zenas Clark, Nathaniel Stoughton, Esq. and Amos Cole, Delegates to sit in the Convention at Claremont in August or September next."

April 14th, 1803, the Parish meeting, "Voted and chose Zenas Clark and Nathaniel Stoughton, Delegates to sit in the Convention at Rockingham in September next."

May 7th, 1804, The Parish meeting, "Voted and chose Oliver

Kidder and Zenas Clark, Delegates." The warning for this meeting spoke of the "Convention to be holden at Weathersfield in the State of Vermont on the last Wednesday of August next."

Having regard to the foregoing notes, we may conclude that in Vermont there were three parishes connected with this organization, viz. Rockingham, Weathersfield and Westminster. Perhaps Hartland should be included. Conventions appear to have been holden as follows: at Claremont, N. H. August 14th, 1801, and August or September, 1802; at Rockingham, Vt. on the 1st Wednesday in September, 1803; at Weathersfield on the last Wednesday in August, 1804; at Westminster on the last Wednesday in August, 1805; at Claremont in 1806; at Hartland on the third Wednesday in September, 1807; at Rockingham on the third Wednesday in September, 1808.

The action of the General Convention of 1808, taken in consequence of the memorial from the New-Hampshire Convention, seems to have broken up this ecclesiastical association in the valley of the Connecticut. The course of action adopted by the Church in New-Hampshire and Vermont appears to have been courteous and conciliatory. By the Convention of New-Hampshire, holden at Concord, in August, 1808, the Rev. Daniel Barber, though he was not present in it, was appointed one of the Standing Committee. At the Convention of 1809, the Rev. Mr. Barber was present and elected a member of the Standing Committee and invited to preach before the next Convention. In the Record of that Convention, Mr. Barber's name stands at the head of the Standing Committee, as though he was the President. Mr. Barber attended the Convention of 1810, preached and was elected President of the Standing Committee. Journals Gen. Con. vol. i, pp. 340, 343, 355, 356.

The following memorandum may be of use to those who care to understand the relation formerly existing between the Churches in Vermont and to observe the effect of the disunion sentiment, and the gradual return of the Churches to better views and conduct.

In the Convention at Arlington, 1790, Jesse Gilbert, of Weathersfield was present as a delegate. September 18, 1793, the Convention met at Pawlet. The Rev. J. C. Ogden of Hartland was present. September 21, 1796, the Convention met at Arlington. Philander Chase was present as a Delegate from Bethel, and Samuel Bliss of Strafford was appointed a member of the Standing Committee. He was elected to the same office by the Convention at Manchester September 20, 1797. In the Convention at Pawlet, September 19, 1798, Philander Chase of Bethel was present, and Samuel Bliss was again appointed a member of the Standing Committee. By the Convention at Arlington, on the third Wednesday of August 1800, Oliver Gallup, of Hartland, was proposed as one of the Trustees to receive a conveyance of the Society Lands. In 1807, the Convention was appointed at Hartland on the third Wednesday in September. This appointment, either by accident or design, agreed with the time set for the Connecticut Valley Convention at the same place. "A few members only being present, no business was done," and the Convention adjourned to meet at Rutland on the 7th of October. At this adjourned meeting no Delegate was present from the east side of the Mountain. August 29, 1810, the Convention met at Middlebury, adopted a new Constitution for the Convention of this State, and the proposed Constitution of the Eastern Diocese. No list of the members of this Convention was preserved. The facts, that the Hon. Dudley Chase and Dr. Edward Campbell were chosen members of the Standing Committee, and that Dr. Samuel Cutler of Rockingham, appointed by the parish in that town to represent it "*in any Episcopal Convention in Vermont*" during that year, was elected one of the Deputies to the General Convention of 1811, from this Diocese, may indicate that these gentlemen were present as Delegates. In the Convention at Wells, June 26, 1811, which was attended by Bishop Griswold, no Delegate was in attendance from the eastern part of the State; but the name of Dudley Chase appears in the Standing Committee for the year ensuing. In the Convention at Fairfield, June 22, 1814, no Delegate from the eastern side of the State was present. Dr. Samuel Cutler, however, was appointed one of the Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. In the Convention at Vergennes, June 26, 1816, no Dele-



gates from the eastern side of the Mountain were present. The Hon. Dudley Chase and the Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard were, however, appointed Delegates to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese, and Thomas Leverett Esq. as a substitute for Mr. Hubbard. In the Convention at Middlebury on the fourth Tuesday in June, 1817, Windsor was for the first time represented—Thomas Thomas Esq. being a Delegate, and the Rev. George Leonard being present as an invited member. In the Convention at Windsor, May 22, 1818, the Rev. George Leonard and the Hon. J. H. Hubbard were present as members. The Rev. George T. Chapman and James Iredell Cutler were present, also, as members from Bellows Falls.

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## 1802.

RUTLAND, September 15th, 1802.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met agreeable to appointment.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden read Prayers and the Rev. Abraham Bronson of the Diocese of Connecticut delivered a Sermon.

Members present :

SHELBURN :

The Rev. BETHUEL CHITTENDEN.

RUTLAND :

DARIUS CHIPMAN, Esq.,	JOHN A. GRAHAM, Esq.,
MAJOR WILLIAM LEE,	Capt. DAVID TUTTLE,
Mr. DANIEL HASKINS,	

CLARENDEN :

JONATHAN PARKER, Jr., Esq.

CASTLETON :

Mr. JOHN WHITLOCK.

WELLS :

STEPHEN CLARKE, Esq.

The Rev. Mr. Bronson of the Diocese of Connecticut was requested to sit as a Member of this Convention.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was elected President, and the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Secretary, *pro tem*.

Voted, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Rev. Mr. Bronson for his Sermon this day delivered before the Convention.

Voted, That the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev Russell Catlin and Stephen Hard, Esq. of Salisbury, be the Standing Committee of this Convention for the ensuing year.

Voted, That Truman Squier, Esq. be the Secretary of this Convention for the ensuing year.

Voted, That the next Meeting of the Convention of this Church be held at the house of David Lewis in Wells.

Adjourned.

Test.

ABRAHAM BRONSON,

Secretary *pro tem*.

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A name appears for the first time in the records of the Church in Vermont in the foregoing meagre account of the Convention at Rutland which should ever be had in honor—that of Abraham Bronson, then a young man. In subsequent years of much depression, uncertainty and keen conflict with the civil power, his name to Churchmen was a tower of strength. The Church in Vermont owes to no man so much of gratitude as to him. By his sagacity, prudence, zeal and calm decision, he led it safely through much difficulty; and he had the satisfaction in a few years of seeing it firmly established and prosperous.

The following paragraph from Mr. Bronson's Historical Letters, respecting the time of this Convention, may be here appropriate.

"The Rev. Amos Pardee, an acquaintance and distant connection of mine, had for several years been officiating in Vermont, but in 1801, was called to Lanesborough, Mass. Early the next Summer, learning that I had left Rhode Island, he invited me to

visit him, with a view to a settlement at the north. In September, I took the proposed journey, visited Arlington, Manchester and Wells, found Mr. Chittenden at Castleton and assisted him to hold a Convention, with a few Lay delegates at Rutland. The state of the Church was everywhere sufficiently discouraging. The two societies in Arlington and Manchester, about ten miles distant from each other, had Glebes, which together might be worth 180 dollars a year; and the few Churchmen in both places, might contribute about \$ 120, more. Wells and Pawlet with Hampton, N. Y. were in some better situation. But as Mr. Chittenden was able to spend some three or four months in the year with them, it appeared most suitable that I should decline the invitation to remain there, and should take charge of the two former societies, which were entirely destitute of public worship. In Manchester I was engaged permanently for one share of the time and in Arlington by the year for the other; and this engagement in the latter place was renewed annually for 23 years. But I took up my residence in the former place on account of the permanent engagement." Episcopal Recorder, Feb. 21, 1835. Gambier Observer, Oct. 17, 1834.

During the Session of the Legislature at Burlington in the Fall of 1802, a renewed effort was made to sequester the Glebe Reservations. As a part of the history of the time, what was said and attempted, by resolutions and reports in that Assembly, is here transcribed from the Journal.

Thursday, October 28th, Mr. Undey Hay of Underhill offered in the House the following preamble and resolution: "Whereas some of the public rights of land, in sundry towns within this state, are become very valuable, and would be immediately occupied, did not doubts arise as to the power of selling or leasing the same:

Resolved, That a Committee, consisting of a member from each county, be appointed, to examine into the situation of those rights, state the facts arising from that examination, and make report to this House what, in their opinion, ought to be done, to remedy the above defect.

Ordered, That Mr. Moses Robinson, Mr. Samuel Porter, Mr. Chauncey Smith, Mr. Alden Spooner, Mr. Daniel Smith, Mr.

Jonathan Fisk, Mr. Undey Hay, Mr. Reuben Blanchard, Mr. Levi House, Mr. Jesse Olds, and Mr. Hains French, be the Members of said Committee." *Journal*, 1802. p. 144.

Saturday, November 6th, "On Motion, Mr. Charles Rich was appointed a member of the Committee upon the resolution respecting public lands, in room of Mr. Daniel Smith, absent.

Ordered, That the said Committee join such Committee as the Governor and Council may appoint." *Journal*, 1802, pp, 227, 228.

"The Committee appointed upon the Resolution respecting the Public Lands, made the following Report :

BURLINGTON, Nov. 10, 1802.

To the Honorable General Assembly now in Session :

Your Committee, to whom was referred the consideration of this resolution, have duly attended to the business of our appointment, so far as the scanty portion of time, and the exigences of other legislative business would admit. We have directed our enquiry to the two rights of land, contained in the several New-Hampshire grants in this State, to wit, the rights known by the name of the Society, or Propagation Rights, and the rights known by the name of the Glebe Rights. As to the first mentioned rights, we find that they were granted, in trust, to a Society in Great Britain, for the purpose of the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts : We also find that by an Act of the General Assembly of this State, passed October 30, 1794, it was considered, that as the aforesaid Society was a Corporation created by, and existing within, a foreign jurisdiction, to which alone they were amenable, by reason whereof, and on the principles of the revolution, the said lands became vested in this State, and by the said Act the said land was granted to the several towns in which such lands lay, for the sole use of schools in said towns ; which said Act of the Legislature remains in full force. And, in the opinion of your Committee, the said Act was passed on principles of sound policy, and consistent with the law of nations, and society. And we further find, that an Act of the Legislature, at their Session aforesaid, did grant and appropriate the rights denominated and known by the name of the Glebe Lands, to the several towns, for the purpose of the support of religious worship



in the several towns, in which such lands did lie; and the said Legislature have, by a subsequent Act, repealed the Act last aforesaid, without making any provision for the further care of said rights, or appropriating the avails arising therefrom. And we find that there are persons in possession of some of said lands, without any claim thereto, and are making great waste thereon, and not liable to account with any person or society therefor, and that, in some instances persons in clerical orders in the Episcopal Church are, without having the authority of law therefor, leasing out, or endeavour to lease out the aforesaid Glebe Land, which if suffered, the avails of said rights will be appropriated perhaps, directly in opposition to the principles of our government, as established by constitution.

And it is further the opinion of your Committee, that, as the Glebes were granted under the authority of Great Britain, and for the sole purpose of supporting the National Religion of that Kingdom, as established by law, and we do consider, that on the principles of our Revolution, and the Treaty of 1783, between the United States and Great Britain, all jurisdiction was relinquished by that government, and of course all claim to property sequestered or granted for national, public or pious uses, given up; and as the laws of a foreign country or state, for establishing a Church or national Religion, can have no effect within our government, neither by the law of nations, or any existing treaty, nor consistent with the principles of our government: Therefore we do report as our opinion, that the said Glebe Lands are vested in, and at the disposal of this State; and do further report, that in our opinion the said Glebe Land ought to be granted and appropriated to and for the use of County Grammar Schools, in the several counties in which such lands lie.

PAUL BRIGHAM, for Committee.

Ordered, That the said report be accepted.

Mr. Undey Hay moved that a Committee be appointed, to prepare and report a Bill agreeably thereto. The question being taken upon this motion, it passed in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Theophilus Harrington, of Clarendon,

Resolved, That the said report be referred to the next Session of the General Assembly." Journal, 1802, pp. 264, 265, 266.

In 1802, Paul Brigham was the Lieutenant Governor. This fact gives to the foregoing remarkable document a sort of official dignity and importance.

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1803.

At a Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Vermont holden at Wells on Wednesday the 21st day of September, the following Members were present, viz.

The Rev. BETHUEL CHITTENDEN,  
The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON.

ARLINGTON:

ZADOCK HARD, Esq.,                      Mr. CALEB DAYTON.

PAWLET:

Mr. HENRY WOOSTER, Jun.

TINMOUTH:

Mr. ABRAHAM GILLETT,                      Mr. ELIHU ANDREWS.

CASTLETON:

Mr. JOHN WHITLOCK.

RUPERT:

Mr. JAMES LINN.

WELLS:

STEPHEN CLARK, Esq.,                      Mr. ROBERT HOTCHKISS,  
Mr. DAVID LEWIS,                                      and others.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was chosen President, and the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Secretary.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Mr. David Lewis, and Mr. Zadock Hard were appointed the Standing Committee.

Resolved, That the next Convention of the Church in this State be held at Manchester, on the third Wednesday of September next.

Adjourned.

Test.      ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

In the General Assembly of Vermont, holden at Westminster in the Fall of 1803, the subject of the Glebe Lands was again brought up and an effort made to sequester them for the use and benefit of Schools.

Wednesday, October 17th. The Report of a Committee relative to the public lands, referred from the last Session of the General Assembly, was called up, and referred to a Committee of five, to join with a Committee of Council."

Members chosen: Lewis R. Morris, Springfield; Amos Marsh, Vergennes; Undey Hay, Underhill; Jonathan Baker, Arlington; Samuel C. Crafts, Craftsbury. Journal, 1803, p. 43.

Tuesday, November 1st. "The Committee to whom was referred the report of a committee on the subject of public lands, heretofore granted by the British Government as Glebes, for the benefit of the Church of England, referred from the last Session, made the following Report.

WESTMINSTER, November 1, 1803.

To the General Assembly now sitting:

Your Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the within Report, having attended to the subject matter thereof, are of opinion, that the Glebe Lands therein mentioned were either never vested in any person or body by the British Government, or if they were, that the property ceased at the severance of the United States from the British Empire, and that they ought to be applied to the support of town schools in the several towns, in which they respectively lie, under such restrictions and regulations as the Assembly shall see fit.

Which Report was read and accepted, and made the order of the day for Thursday afternoon." Journal, 1803, p. 169.

Saturday, November 5th. "The Committee to whom was referred the Report of a committee of the last Session of the Assembly, respecting Public Lands, made report thereon, which was accepted, and ordered to be recommitted." Journal, 1803, p. 200.

"The Committee to whom was referred the Petition respecting the disposal of the Public Lands, made report thereon, which was read and accepted. Whereupon, A Bill, entitled an Act directing

the uses of the rights of land in this State, heretofore granted by the British Government, as Glebes for the benefit of the Church of England, as by Law established, was read and ordered to lie on the table as order of the day for to-morrow afternoon." Tuesday Nov. 8th. Journal, 1803, p. 238.

The Petition spoken of above has not been identified. There are a great many petitions mentioned in the Journal of this year as being introduced, read and referred without any indication of what was asked for.

Thursday, November 10th. "A Bill entitled an Act directing the uses of the rights of land in this State, heretofore granted by the British Government, as Glebes for the benefit of the Church of England, as by law established, with the amendment proposed by the Committee to whom it was referred, was read and accepted; and on the question, shall the Bill pass, the yeas and nays, being demanded by Mr. Jonathan Baker, were :

Yeas—Messrs John Anderson, Ira; Joseph Armington, Waterford; Zenas Allen, Tinmouth; Timothy Allen, South-Hero; Elijah Bailey, Reedsboro; Sylvester Bishop, Marlboro; Samuel Boutel, Stratton; Asa Briggs, Plymouth; Joshua Bailey, Newbury; Joel Brownson, Richmond; Joseph Beeman, Fairfax; — Beech, —; — Brown, —; Timothy Castle, Wilmington; Oliver Church, Fairhaven; Timothy Cruttenden, Poultney; Benjamin Clap, Barnard; Asahel Chamberlin, Strafford; Jesse P. Carpenter, Huntington; John Cameron, Ryegate; Ithiel Cargill, Brunswick; Benajah Douglass, Brandon; Daniel Dana, Guildhall; Mills De Forest, Lemington; Isaac Eddy, Pittsfield; Enoch Emmerson, Rochester; Benjamin Emmons, Woodstock; Seth Emmons, Vineyard; Theophilus Flagg, Hubbardton; David Foot, Cornwall; Elisha Fuller, New-Haven; Isaiah Fisk, Windham; Jacob Galusha, Shaftsbury; Edmond Graves, Sunderland; Robert Hawley, Bristol; Elijah Hammond, Thetford; Undey Hay, Underhill; Benjamin Holmes, Georgia; Joseph Herrick, Granby; Daniel Jewett, Putney; Elias Jones, Reading; Gaius Kibbe, Minehead; Timothy Miller, Sudbury; William Marsh, Shrewsbury; Theophilus Middlebrooks, Ferrisburgh; Amos Marsh, Vergennes; H. E. G. McLaughlin, Topsham; John Noyes, Guilford; Ruben Nash, Benson; Samuel Porter, Dummerston; Joseph Perry-



Pomfret; Silas Pond, Panton; James A. Potter, Jericho; Martin Powell, Westford; Gershom Palmer, Calais; Samuel Peckham, Huntsburgh; Samuel Shaw, Castleton; Pliny Smith, Orwell; James Smith, Cavendish; Alvin Simons, Weston; Gideon Segar, Addison; Daniel Smith, Monkton; Ruben Saxton, Salisbury; Timothy Stanley, Greensboro; James Tabor, Randolph; Silas Wright, Weybridge; — Wheatley, —; Samuel Wetherbee, Concord; — Webber, —.

Nays—Messrs. Ebenezer Allen, Newfane; Jonathan Allen, Barton; Jonathan Baker, Arlington; Darius Bullock, Halafax; Ruben Blanchard, Peacham; Jonas Brigham, Bakersfield; Hubbard Barlow, Fairfield; Ebenezer Corse, Duxbury; Samuel Chamberlin, Danville; Joshua Clap, Montgomery; Josiah Dana, Chelsea; Elkanah Danforth, Woodford; Nathaniel Edson, St. Johnsbury; Samuel Eaton, Jr., Johnson; Bethuel Finney, Stamford; James Fisk, Barre; Jonathan Fisk, Williamstown; Joseph Fisher, Cabot; Richard Hurd, Sandgate; Arad Hunt, Vernon; Caleb Hendee, Pittsford; Eleazer Hubbard, Berlin; John Hutchinson, Braintree; Samuel Hazeltine, Corinth; Stephen House, Enosburgh; Nathaniel Hutchins, North-Hero; Timothy Hinman, Derby; Lent Ives, Wallingford; Joshua Isham, Shelburn; Jabez Jones, Bolton; Phineas Kitchel, Bridport; Bradford Kinney, Plainfield; Aaron Leland, Chester; David Lewis Ludlow; Nathan Leavenworth, Jr., Hinesburgh; Benjamin Muzzy, Jamaca; Lewis R. Morris, Springfield; Joel Marsh, Sharon; Jonathan McCumber, Groton; Joseph Marsh, Coventry; Jesse Olds, Westfield; Abner Perry, Wardsboro; Gamaliel Painter, Middlebury; Andrew B. Peters, Bradford; Daniel Peasley, Washington; Seth Paine, Tunbridge; Seth Putnam, Middlesex; Bissel Phelps, Waitsfield; Seth Pomeroy, St. Albans; Thomas H. Parker, Eden; Ralph Parker, Glover; Nathan Robinson, Bennington; Ephraim Ranny, Jr., Westminster; Samuel Rich, Charlotte; Nathan Robinson Stow; Elisha Reynolds, Alburgh; Theophilus Harrington, Clarendon, Speaker of the House; James Shafter, Athens; Levi Sabin, Rockingham; Elias Stevens, Royalton; Alden Spooner, Windsor; Nathaniel Stoughton, Weathersfield; John Stacy, Orange; Wright Spaulding, Moretown; Lemuel Scott, Fletcher; Elijah Strong, Brownington; James Tarbox, Randolph; Thaddeus

Tuttle, Burlington; Thomas Taylor, Wolcott; D. Tuthill, —; Stephen Underhill, Missisquoi; Solomon Wright, Pownal; Lemuel Whitney, Brattleborough; John B. Wheeler, Grafton; Phineas Williams, Bridgewater; Joseph Woodworth, Montpelier; Amherst Willoughby, Berkshire.

So it passed in the negative, yeas, 69, nays, 77, and the Bill was by order dismissed." Journal, 1803, pp. 258, 259.

The House, according to the List of Members, consisted of 183. From this it would appear that 37 Members did not vote on this Bill. It was, however, late in the session and several had been excused and gone to their homes.

## 1804.

MANCHESTER, Sept. 19, 1804.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met agreeable to appointment.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson performed Divine Service and the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden delivered a sermon. After the religious exercises it was found that the following gentlemen were Members, viz.

The Rev. BETHUEL CHITTENDEN,  
The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON.

ARLINGTON:

Mr. CALEB DAYTON, Mr. DOMINICUS GREY.

PAWLET:

Mr. JOSIAH SMITH.

WELLS:

Mr. RAYMOND HOTCHKISS.

SANDGATE:

Mr. NICHOLS RANDALL.

DORSET:

Mr. JOHN FRENCH.

MANCHESTER:

TRUMAN SQUIER, Esq.,	LAZARUS BEARDSLEE,
Messrs. MOSES SPERRY,	JOSHUA FRENCH,
BENJAMIN PURDY, jr.	MARTIN ROBERTS.
JOHN HOGABOOM,	

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was chosen President, and the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Secretary.

Resolved, that the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Abraham Bronson and Mr. David Lewis be the Standing Committee for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Rev. Mr. Chittenden for his excellent sermon, delivered this day.

Resolved, That the future Meetings of the Conventions of this Church be on the *Fourth* Wednesday of September, annually.

Resolved, That the next Meeting of the Convention of this Church be held at the West Church in Arlington.

Adjourned.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

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As usual the matter of the Glebe Lands was, in various forms, before the General Assembly, which in 1804 held its Session at Rutland. In order to give a connected history of these Lands, and of public sentiment in regard to them, what was attempted in that body will be transcribed from the Journal of that year.

Saturday, October 13, 1804, "The Petition of Benjamin Jacqueth was read, and referred to Messrs. David Hibbard, Samuel Beech, Elam Jewett, Jr., Jonas Brigham, Erastus Safford."

"The Petition of Benjamin Burtch was read and referred to the Committee appointed on the petition of Benjamin Jacqueth and others."

This last named Petition was presented before the adjourned Session of the Legislature held at Windsor in January and February of this year, and referred to the present Session. Journal of the session at Windsor, 1804, pp. 35, 36. Journal, Session at Rutland, 1804, p. 23.

"The Petition of sundry inhabitants of Danby was read and referred to the Committee appointed on the petition of Benjamin Jacqueth and others." Journal, 1804, p. 73.

“The Petition of a number of the inhabitants of Tinmouth, was read and referred to a Committee appointed on the petition of Benjamin Jacqueth and others.” *Journal*, 1804, p. 77.

“On motion of Mr. Elihu Luce of Hartland, Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed, to join such Committee as the Council may appoint, to make enquiry concerning the Glebe Lands in the several towns in this State, and make report to this House, whether the said Lands belong to this State, and if so, in what way they shall be disposed of.”

Members chosen, Messrs. Asa Lyon, South Hero; Titus Hutchinson, Woodstock; Samuel Shaw, Castleton; Daniel Dana, Guildhall; Ezra Butler, Waterbury. *Journal*, 1804, p. 128.

Monday, October 29th, “The Committee appointed, pursuant to the Resolution, introduced by Mr. Luce, to make enquiry concerning the Glebe Lands, made report, That the said Glebe Lands do belong to this State, and ought to be speedily chartered out to the best advantage, to the use of the State; the avails to be apportioned from time to time as the Legislature may direct. Which report was read and accepted, and the Resolution recommended, with directions to the Committee to bring in a Bill agreeable to the report.” *Journal*, 1804, pp. 207, 208.

Wednesday, October 31st, “The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Benjamin Jacqueth and others, praying for the grant of the Glebe Lands in Hartland, made report, That the prayer thereof ought not to be granted. Which report was read and ordered to lie on the table.”

“The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Benjamin Burtch, stating, that he formerly expended large sums of money in building a court-house and gaol in Woodstock, near to his own house, expecting to receive compensation for the same, from the privileges and benefits which he should derive, in consequence of the contiguity of those buildings to his house and property; that the said court-house, shortly after its erection, was consumed by fire, and a new one erected, and likewise a new gaol, both of which were built at a distance from the petitioner’s house, by reason whereof he has failed of receiving those benefits and advantages which he expected to receive, and has sustained a great loss of property, and therefore praying the Legislature



to make him compensation, by granting him all those lands known by the name of the Glebe Lands, in the several towns in this State, which were chartered by the Governor of New-Hampshire, or such part of them as the Legislature shall think proper, made report, That the prayer of the petition ought not to be granted. Which report was read and accepted, and leave granted to withdraw the petition." *Journal*, 1804, pp. 236, 237.

Wednesday, October 31st. "The Committee to whom was referred the petition of a number of the inhabitants of Danby, praying the Legislature to take into consideration the situation of the Glebe Lands in this State, and to make such regulations respecting these lands, as shall secure them to incumbent Parsons, whenever they shall settle in the towns where there are such lands; and otherwise to regulate the rents and profits of the same, where there is no incumbent Parson, made report, That the prayer thereof ought not to be granted. Which report was read and accepted, and leave granted the petitioners to withdraw their petition."

"The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of a number of the inhabitants of Tinmouth, praying the Legislature to regulate the proceedings relating to the Glebe Lands, similar to the preceding petition of the inhabitants of Danby, made report, That the prayer thereof ought not to be granted. Which report was read and accepted, and leave granted the petitioners to withdraw their petition." *Journal*, 1804, pp. 240, 241.

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## 1805.

ARLINGTON, Sept. 25th, 1805.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met agreeable to appointment.

The Rev. Barzillai Bulkely read prayers, and the Rev. Abraham Bronson delivered a Sermon.

After Divine Service, the Convention was opened and the following gentlemen were found Members, viz.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,

The Rev. BARZILLAI BULKELY.

## ARLINGTON:

ZADOCK HARD, Esq.,	Mr. NOBLE HARD,
TYRUS HURD, Esq.,	Mr. DANIEL TURNER.

## MANCHESTER:

TRUMAN SQUIER, Esq.,	Mr. JABEZ HAWLEY,
Mr. MARTIN ROBERTS,	Mr. ANSON J. SPERRY.

## SANDGATE:

GEORGE PECK, Esq.,	DR. JOHN WATKINS.
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## PAWLET:

Mr. JOSIAH SMITH.

## FAIRFIELD:

Mr. NATHAN LOBDELL.

The Rev. Mr. Bulkely was chosen President, pro tem. and the Rev. Mr. Bronson, Secretary.

The Convention took into consideration the present state of the Lands in Vermont, originally granted to the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

After reading a Resolution of that Society, dated May 20th, 1785, expressive of their intention to dispose of their property in this country to the use of the Church here, the Convention adjourned for an hour and a half.

3 o'clock, P. M. The Convention met and proceeded to business.

Resolved, That Caleb Dayton be requested to sit as a Member of this Convention during the remainder of its Session.

Resolved, That the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden be the President of this Convention for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That the Standing Committee be directed to take measures to procure from the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a *Deed*, or other conveyance of the Lands, originally granted to that Society in this State, to be applied to the use of the Church

here, in such way and manner as the Venerable Society shall think proper. (a)

Resolved, That the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Daniel Chipman, Esq., Truman Squier, Esq., Mr. Martin Robberts and Mr. Anson J. Sperry be the Standing Committee for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention do write to the Bishop of New-York, signifying our wish to be annexed to his Diocese, and requesting him to give us an answer upon this subject.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the people of this Church to raise money by subscription or otherwise, for the purpose of obtaining possession of the Glebe Lands, and securing them to the various Churches, upon such terms as shall be agreed on between the said subscribers and the people to whom the Glebes contended for legally and rightfully belong. (b)

Resolved, That the next Meeting of the Convention of this Church be held at Manchester, unless the Standing Committee shall deem it expedient to appoint it at some other place.

Adjourned.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

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(a.) As an explanation of the course of action pursued under the authority of this Resolution, the following passage from one of the Historical Letters of the Rev. Mr. Bronson is here apt.

“At my first settlement in the State, my mind was led to an investigation of this subject; and Mr. Anson J. Sperry, then a student at Law in Manchester, engaging with me in the cause, we soon became entirely satisfied that the Society’s Title remained good. Accordingly we brought the subject before the State Convention in 1805, and obtained the passage of a Resolution directing the Standing Committee to take measures for procuring a conveyance. At the same time another Resolution was passed,

requesting the Bishop of New York to take us under his superintendence, that thus having a name among our brethren abroad, we might apply to the Society with more confidence of success. Having learnt that our people in New-Hampshire, in the case of lands in a similar situation, had procured a Deed of Trust to certain individuals, we adopted the same course, and determined to ask for a similar conveyance. In order to strengthen our influence, Mr. Sperry took a journey to New York and Connecticut, and explained our views to Bishop Moore, Dr. Bowden, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Hubbard, and the Rev. Ashbel Baldwin, whom we proposed as suitable persons to receive the Trust. They all approved of our course, and consented to accept the Deed. So much labor was necessary in collecting information and making arrangements, that the petition, and explanatory letter, and form of a Deed, were not ready till July, 1806. They were then transmitted to Bishop Moore, and by him forwarded to London. As no answer was received from England, at the close of the next year, I wrote to Gen. Bradley, Senator in Congress, from Vermont, requesting him to inquire of the British Minister, recently arrived in Washington, respecting the matter. He wrote me in his characteristic style, 'that it was not probable that a man brought up in a corrupt Court had any more knowledge of the Messiah's Kingdom than the Tartars in Asia,' and so he had forwarded the letter to Gen. Lyman, our Consul in London, with a desire that he would inquire into the subject. A few months after, Gen. Lyman wrote us that he had begun an inquiry, and would pursue it, so as to ascertain whether our object could be effected. But we never received any further communication from him." *Gambier Observer*, November 7, 1834. *Episcopal Recorder*, February 28, 1835.

(b.) One whose mind is unbiased, and imbued with the great principles of right and justice, reads this Resolution with a sentiment of sadness. The valuable property to which it refers, during the Session of the Legislature, in the Fall following this Convention, was, by legal enactment, in defiance of the decision of the United States Court for the district of Vermont, and in violation of the sixth article of the Treaty of 1783, taken from the Episcopal Church and appropriated to the use and benefit of district schools. And this law, sustained by a qualified decision of



the Supreme Court of the United States, has thus far continued in force.

It may well be a source of some gratification to the members of the Episcopal Church, however, that the income of this part of their inherited and rightful domain, is used with some degree of fidelity and success for so good a purpose as the benefit of the young. It may not generally be known and considered that, in this State, more than *Three Thousand Dollars*, besides an equal share of taxation, is annually taken from the Church for the support of Common Schools. Here is a great wrong. The State has no right to take what every man who can read and understand the English Language knows to be the property of good and loyal citizens, given them for the use and support of Religion, on the strength of a legal quibble and refinement, and appropriate it to any purpose.

When regard is had to the final vote sequestering and appropriating the Glebe Lands, it is agreeable to see the names of so many gentlemen who were governed by just and right principles. And, for those familiar with the history of this State, the other List affords abundant information in respect to the parties by whom this wrong was done.

The General Assembly of Vermont held its Session in 1805, at Danville. What was done in it respecting the Glebe Lands has been transcribed from the Journal.

October 11th, a Committee of five members on the part of the House was appointed, to join such Committee as the Governor and Council might appoint, to take into consideration the situation of the Glebe Lands in this State.

Members appointed, Messrs Benjamin Gardener, Pownal; Phineas Williams, Bridgwater; Enoch Emmerson, Rochester; Ralph Parker, Glover; Joseph Perry, Pomfret. Journal, 1805, p. 10.

“The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Glebe Lands in this State, and to whom were referred several petitions on that subject, reported a Bill, entitled An Act directing the disposal of the Glebe Lands in this State.”

The report was accepted, and the Bill was read and ordered to pass to a second reading to-morrow afternoon. Friday October 25. Journal, 1805, p. 94.

Wednesday, October 30th. "The Bill, entitled an Act directing the disposal of the Glebe Lands in the several towns in this State, granted under the authority of the Governor of New-Hampshire, was taken up and read."

"Mr. Lewis R. Morris, of Springfield, moved to amend the Bill by striking out the word *right* in the first section of the Bill; which would leave the Bill without expressing the opinion of the House on the right of the property of the Glebe Lands. After some time spent in debate on the subject, on motion the House adjourned."

In the afternoon of the same day, "The Bill entitled an Act directing the disposal of the Glebe Lands, etc., was called up; and the question being put on the adoption of the amendment proposed by Mr. Morris, the yeas and nays were demanded by Mr. Cameron and were"—Yeas, 48: Nays, 128. "So the amendment was lost."

"The Bill was then on motion, referred to a Committee of *three* for redrafting. Members chosen, Messrs. Charles Rich, Shoreham; John White, Jr. Georgia; Samuel Shaw, Castleton." Journal, 1805, pp. 118, 119.

Friday, Nov. 1. "The Committee to whom was committed the Bill entitled, an Act directing the disposal of the Glebe Lands in this State, etc., reported the Bill drafted anew. The Bill passed the first reading, and was ordered to lie on the table, and be made the order of the day at the opening of the House to-morrow afternoon, for a second reading." Journal, 1805, p. 129.

Saturday, Nov. 2d. "Agreeable to the order of the day, the Bill entitled an Act for the disposition of Glebe Lands, etc., was taken up, and being read the second time, the question was put, Shall the Bill pass?—The yeas and nays, being demanded by Mr. Morris, were as follows:

Yeas: Messrs. John Aiken, Windham; John H. Andrus, Danby; Joseph Armington, Waterford; Joel Brownson, Richmond; John Borden, Vineyard; William Barney, Underhill; Paul W. Brigham, Sharon; Esaias Butts, Hancock; Reuben Bigelow, Peru; Aaron Beach, Whiting; Thomas Bartlett, Burke; Jedediah Boynton, Shelburn; Daniel Brown, Plymouth; Samuel Collins, Dorset; Asahel Chamberlin, Strafford; Ithiel Cargill, Brunswick;

Salvin Collins, Berlin; Penuel Child, Brandon; Cephas Carpenter, Moretown; John Cameron, Ryegate; Sherman Dewey, Hartford; Howland Delong, Lincoln; Daniel Dyer, Clarendon; — Dana, —; Pascal P. Enos, Windsor; Isaac Eddy, Pittsfield; John Fitch, Huntington; Austin Fenn, Ludlow; Jonathan Fisk, Williamstown; Nathaniel Farrington, Walden; Elisha Fuller, New-Haven; Thomas Freeman, Barnard; David Goodwillie, Barnet; Edmund Graves, Sunderland; Jacob Galusha, Shaftsbury; Benj. Gardner, Pownal; Robert Holley, Bristol; David Hazelton, Westford; Jesse Heath, Groton; Richard Hurd, Sandgate; David Holden, Shrewsbury; Simeon Hine, Colchester; John Ide, Jr., Coventry; Samuel Jewett, Weybridge; Daniel Jewett, Putney; John Jackson, Milton; Elias Jones, Reading; Nathaniel King, Tunbridge; Lyman Kidder, Braintree; Robert Kennedy, Richford; Elihu Luce, Hartland; Asa Lyon, South-Hero; Caleb Leach, Irasburgh; H. E. G. McLaughlin, Topsham; Nathan Page, Royalton; Seth Putnam, Middlesex; Joseph Perry, Pomfret; Abijah Perry, Leicester; Nehemiah Perkins, Stowe; Silas Pond, Panton, John Pinneo, Bolton; Amos Robinson, Northfield; Josiah Rising, Rupert; Ephraim Ranney, Westminster; Joseph Robinson, Swanton; Alvin Simons, Weston; Lewis Sowles, Alburgh; Lemuel Scott, Fletcher; Samuel Strong, Vergennes; Pliny Smith, Orwell; Samuel Shaw, Castleton; Gideon Seegar, Addison; Daniel Smith, Monkton; James Smith, Cavendish; Thomas Taylor, Wolcott; Gideon Tabor, Mount-Tabor; Simeon Tubbs, Essex; Elisha Thayer, Farlee; Cyrus Ware, Montpelier; Pres West, St. Johnsbury; Nathaniel Wheatly, Brookfield; Phineas Williams, Bridgwater; Elisha Walker, Hubbardton; John White, Jr., Georgia; Shubael Wilmarth, Stamford; George Westgate, Johnson; Solomon Walbridge, Cambridge; Asa Wilkins, Fairfax; Joseph Warner, Sudbury.—95.

Nays: Messrs. Samuel Arnold, Londonderry; Darius Bulloch, Halifax; Peirce Burton, Norwich; Jonathan Baker, Arlington; Jonas Brigham, Bakersfield; J. P. Buckingham, Thetford; Asa Beebe, Jr., Winhall; Anthony Burgess, Westfield; Joshua Clapp, Montgomery; William Cahoon, Lyndon; Nathaniel Collins, Manchester; Isaac Cutler, Fairhaven; John Cowee, Chittenden; Dudley Chase, Randolph; Samuel C. Crafts, Craftsbury; John

Dyer, Townshend; Benjamin Davis, Duxbury; Gilbert Dennison, Guilford; Enoch Emerson, Rochester; Samuel French, Hardwick; John Frasier, Ferrisburg; Caleb Fisk, Billymead; Jeremiah French, Williston; William Fox, Wallingford; Jabez Foster, Whitingham; John Fuller, Sherburne; Simon Francis, Wells; Arad Hunt, Vernon; Asa Hemmenway, Bridport; Nathan Hutchins, North-Hero; Samuel Hubbard, Huntsburgh; Theophilus Huntington, Chelsea; Timothy Hinman, Derby; Luke Knowlton, Jr., Newfane; Elijah Knight, Rockingham; George Kennan, Waterbury; Nathan Leavenworth, Hinesburgh; Lewis R. Morris, Springfield; Benjamin Muzzy, Jamaca; Nehemiah Noble, Bethel; Bissel Phelps, Waitsfield; Seth Pomeroy, St. Albans; Gamaliel Painter, Middlebury; Samuel Phelps, Lunenburg; Ezekiel Porter, Rutland; Thomas Porter, Vershire; Samuel Porter, Dummerston; Daniel Reed, Wardsborough; Thomas D. Rood, Jericho; David Rising, Orange; Charles Rich, Shoreham; Stephen Royce, Berkshire; Aaron Leland, Chester, Speaker of the House; Reuben Saxton, Salisbury; Arad Stebbins, Bradford; Gregory Stone, Weathersfield; James Shafter, Athens; Benjamin Sandford, Cornwall; Christopher Sargeant, Danville; Matthew Sax, Highgate; Joshua Tenney, Corinth; Daniel Tuthill, Landgrove; Lemuel Whitney, Brattleborough.—63.

“So the Bill passed, and was directed to be engrossed and sent to the Governor and Council for revision and concurrence, or proposals of amendment.” *Journal*, 1805, pp. 137, 138.

Tuesday, November 5. A Bill entitled an Act directing the appropriation of the lands in this State, heretofore granted by the Government of Great Britain, to the Church of England, as by Law established, was returned to the House from the Governor and Council by their Secretary, concurred and passed into a Law. *Journal*, 1805, p. 158.

Of the Act above described, the following is a copy.

“Whereas the several Glebe Rights, granted by the British Government, to the Church of England, as by their Law established, are in the nature of public reservations; and as such became vested, by the Revolution, in the sovereignty of this State; therefore,

Sect. 1. It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the



State of Vermont, That the several rights of land in this State, granted under authority of the British Government, to the Church of England, as by law established, be, and the same hereby are, granted, severally, to the respective towns in which such lands lie, and to their respective use and uses, forever, in the manner following, to wit: it shall be the duty of the selectmen, in the respective towns, in the name and behalf, and at the expense, of such towns, if necessary, to sue for, and recover, the possession of such lands, and the same to lease out, according to their best judgment and discretion, reserving an annual rent therefor, which shall be paid into the treasury of such town, and appropriated to the use of schools therein; and shall be applied in the same manner as monies arising from school lands, are, by law, directed to be applied.

Sect. 2. That whenever any town, containing a Glebe Right, shall have been divided, and any part thereof set off to any other town or towns, the inhabitants residing in such part or parts set off, shall be entitled to their full proportion, and no more, of the monies arising from the Glebe Lands in the town to which they originally belonged." *Laws of Vermont, compiled by William Slade, jun., p. 198.*

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1806.

MANCHESTER, Sept. 24, 1806.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met according to appointment. The Rev. Abraham Bronson read prayers, and the Rev. Russel Catlin delivered a Sermon.

Immediately after the Religious Exercises, the Convention was opened, when the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was chosen President, and the Rev. Mr. Bronson, Secretary.

The following gentlemen were found to be present as Delegates to this Convention, viz.

MANCHESTER:

TRUMAN SQUIER, Esq.,	Mr. MARTIN ROBERTS,
Mr. JOSHUA FRENCH,	ANSON J. SPERRY, Esq.

## ARLINGTON:

Mr. CURTIS HAWLEY,  
LUTHER STONE, Esq.,

Mr. NOBLE HARD,  
Mr. DANIEL TURNER.

## PAWLET:

Mr. JOSIAH SMITH,

Mr. ASAPH TEELE.

## CASTLETON:

Mr. JOHN WHITLOCK.

## DORSET:

Mr. JOHN FRENCH.

Mr. Caleb Dayton and Job Giddings, Esq. were requested to sit as members of this Convention.

Adjourned for an hour and a half.

Four o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met.

Anson J. Sperry, Esq., one of the Standing Committee, reported verbally,—That he was the bearer of a letter of the Secretary of this Convention to the Bishop of New-York, requesting him to take the Church in this State under his Episcopal care, agreeable to a Resolution of the Convention, and that the Bishop authorized him to inform this Convention, that he would comply with said request. (a)

Mr. Sperry, also, read a copy of the writings addressed by the Standing Committee to “The Incorporated Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts,” requesting a conveyance of their Lands in this State for the use of the Church here. These writings consisted of a Petition and an accompanying Letter, with the form of a Deed, which had been transmitted to the said Society. The Gentlemen named in the Deed, as Trustees, to the Lands, were, the Bishop of New-York, the Bishop of Connecticut, William Samuel Johnson, Esq., LL. D., Jonathan Ingersoll, Esq., John Bowden, D. D., Bela Hubbard, D. D. and the Rev. Ashbel Baldwin.

Whereupon it was resolved, That this Convention do approve of the measures taken by the Standing Committee for

obtaining a Deed of the Society's Lands, and do direct the Standing Committee for the ensuing year to pursue the said measures to effect.

Resolved, That the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Russel Catlin, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Daniel Chipman, Esq., Truman Squier, Esq., Anson J. Sperry, and Mr. Martin Robberts, be the Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

Resolved, That the next Meeting of this Convention be at Hartland on the third Wednesday of September next.

Adjourned.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

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(a) "In the Convention of 1805, when the Petition was ordered to England for the Society's Lands, a resolution was passed requesting Bishop Moore of New-York to take the Church in Vermont under his care. He consented with a view of giving more efficacy to that Petition, but with the express understanding, that he should not be expected to visit the State. In this situation as regards the Episcopate the Church remained till 1809." Bronson's Letters. Gambier Observer, Nov. 21, 1834. Episcopal Recorder, Mar. 7, 1835.

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1807.

HARTLAND, Sept. 16, 1807.

Agreeably to appointment, the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met; but only a few members being present, no business was done. The Convention adjourned to meet at Rutland on Wednesday, October 7th.

RUTLAND, October 7th, 1807.

According to adjournment the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met at the House of Darius Chipman, Esq., of Rutland.

The following gentlemen were present as Members, viz.

The Rev. BETHUEL CHITTENDEN,  
The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON.

RUTLAND:

DARIUS CHIPMAN, Esq.

MIDDLEBURY:

DANIEL CHIPMAN, Esq.

CASTLETON:

Mr. JOHN WHITLOCK.

FAIRFIELD:

Mr. NATHAN LOBDELL.

WELLS:

DAVID LEWIS, Esq.,                      Mr. — WILLIAMS.

MANCHESTER:

ANSON J. SPERRY, Esq.

ARLINGTON:

Mr. NOBLE HARD.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was chosen President, and the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Secretary.

The Rev. Mr. Chittenden, the Rev. Mr. Bronson, Darius Chipman, Esq., Daniel Chipman, Esq., David Lewis, Esq., Anson J. Sperry, Esq., and Mr. Martin Robberts were chosen the Standing Committee.

A Copy of the Petition and other papers forwarded to "the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," for the purpose of obtaining a Deed of their Lands in this State, were read; and the Committee reported, that they had as yet received no answer to said Petition, and had taken no measures upon the subject within the year past.



Whereupon it was resolved, by the Convention, That the Standing Committee be, and they are hereby directed, to pursue the measures already taken to obtain a Deed of the Society's Lands in this State.

The next Convention of the Church was appointed to be held at Shelburne on the fourth Wednesday of September next.

Adjourned. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

1808.

SHELBURNE, Sept. 23d, 1808.

Agreeable to appointment the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met. The following gentlemen were present as Members, viz.

The Rev. BETHUEL CHITTENDEN,  
The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON.

SHELBURNE:

BETHUEL CHITTENDEN, 2d, SIMEON PALMER.

SALISBURY:

STEPHEN HARD, Esq.

CHARLOTTE:

ZACHEUS TOWNER, Esq.

BURLINGTON:

AMBROSE ATWATER.

ESSEX:

Dr. JOHN PERIGO.

WILLISTON:

DANIEL GOODRICH.

CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK.

WESTHAVEN:

GILBERT HARD.

FAIRFIELD:

EZEKIEL BRADLEY, 2d.

FAIRFAX:

ABIJAH HAWLEY.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden was chosen President and the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Secretary.

The Rev. Mr. Bronson in behalf of the Standing Committee made a Report respecting the state of the correspondence with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Whereupon it was resolved, That this Convention do approve of the measures taken within the year past on that subject, and do direct the Standing Committee to take such further measures as in their discretion shall appear advisable. (a)

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Darius Chipman, Esq., Daniel Chipman, Esq., David Lewis, Esq., Anson J. Sperry, Esq. and Mr. Martin Roberts, were appointed the Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

The next Meeting of the Convention was appointed to be held at Westhaven on the fourth Wednesday in September next.

Adjourned. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

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(a) The following passage from one of the Rev. Mr. Bronson's Historical Letters shows plainly the steadiness of aim and wisdom with which this interest of the Church was pursued.

"In the Autumn of 1808, I made a journey to Canada, and opened the case to Dr. Stewart, then a Member and Missionary of the Society, and now Bishop of Quebec. He cheerfully tendered us any assistance in his power, and continued a friendly correspondence, except with some interruption in time of war, till our claim was established in 1823. In the same year, 1808, Bishop Moore, by our request, again addressed the Society, and the next year received for answer, that they could not consistently make any conveyance of their property here, till they had further information about it, and about the success of a Power of Attorney which they had given for the recovery of their Lands in New-Hampshire." Gambier Observer, Nov. 7, 1834. Episcopal Recorder, Feb. 28, 1835.

1809.

WESTHAVEN, Sept. 27th, 1809.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met agreeably to appointment. The following gentlemen were present as Members, viz.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON.

CHARLOTTE:

ZACHEUS TOWNER, Esq.

SHELBURNE:

BELA CHITTENDEN, HEMAN CHITTENDEN.

POULTNEY:

EBENEZER CANFIELD, Esq.

ARLINGTON:

CURTIS HAWLEY.

PAWLET:

JOSIAH SMITH.

CASTLETON:

TIMOTHY EVERTS.

WESTHAVEN:

Col. J. ORMS, SAMUEL FRANCIS,  
Capt. WILLIAM SPRATT, GILBERT HARD.

Zacheus Towner, Esq. was chosen President and the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Secretary.

The Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States were read.

The Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Darius Chipman, Esq., Daniel Chipman, Esq., David Lewis, Esq., Anson J. Sperry, Esq. and Mr. Martin Roberts were chosen the Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

The further correspondence respecting the Society's Lands in this State was read. Whereupon it was resolved, That the Standing Committee be, and they are hereby directed to take such further measures in that business as they shall deem expedient. (a)

The next Convention of the Church in Vermont was appointed to meet at Fairfield on the fourth Wednesday in September next.

Adjourned. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

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(a) "By this time we had discovered that the Deed in New-Hampshire had been of no use, and that the Agents there had been obliged to get a Power of Attorney, so as to carry on their measures in the Society's name. Even in this way they did not fully succeed, till in 1810, the agency was transferred to the Trustees of the Bishops in Massachusetts, who prosecuted the claim to final effect. The same course in the use of a Deed would occur in Vermont: so it was determined at the next application to ask merely for a Power of Attorney. But the embargo, non-intercourse and war intercepted any further correspondence with the Society, till the return of peace. In the meantime, however, notwithstanding the perplexities of the Glebe Suit, the business was not wholly neglected." Rev. A. Bronson, Gambier Observer, Nov. 7, 1834. Episcopal Recorder, Feb. 28, 1835.

The name of the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden appears in the Journal of this year for the last time. A simple sketch of his life is here fit. A more extended memorial of him may be written. He was born in Guilford, Conn. in 1739. He came into Vermont in 1773 and settled in the town of Tinmouth, Rutland County. He was ordained Deacon by Bishop Seabury at Stamford, Conn. June 1, 1787, and Priest by the same at New London, June 20, 1794. In 1790 he removed to Shelburne, Chittenden County. Among the few widely dispersed Episcopalians of Vermont, he did faithfully during 22 years the work of an Evangelist. From 1794 to the time of his death, he was a member of the Standing Committee, and from 1798 to 1808 the President of the Convention. He died at Shelburne Nov. 5, 1809, while engaged in Divine service.



1810.

MIDDLEBURY, August 29th, 1810.

A Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met agreeably to a Call of the Standing Committee.

Adjourned until to-morrow.

August 30th, 1810.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

The Rev. Daniel Burhans, D. D., of Connecticut, being present, was requested to sit as President of the Convention.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen Secretary.

It appearing to the Convention that the old Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State was lost, so as not to be found among the papers of the Convention, *a new one* was formed and adopted in the following words, to wit:

“The Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont.

ART. I. The various Churches in the State of Vermont shall be considered as united under one Convention, in subordination to the General Convention of the United States.

ART. II. A Convention of this Church shall be *annually* held on the Fourth Wednesday in June, at such place as shall be appointed at a previous Convention, consisting of all the Clergy and Lay Delegates from each of the Churches.

ART. III. The Convention shall deliberate and act in one body, but shall vote in distinct orders when any member shall call for such a division on any question; and in such case a concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary to give validity to any measure.

ART. IV. A President, Secretary and a Standing Committee shall be chosen at every annual Convention.

ART. V. No alteration shall be made in this Constitution, except in Annual Convention.

The Constitution of the Eastern Diocese in the United States was read and assented to, in the words following, viz.

The Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Eastern Diocese of the United States of America.

ART. I. The States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New-Hampshire and Vermont shall constitute one Episcopal Diocese, in subordination to the General Convention, and shall be entitled, *The Eastern Diocese of the United States*.

ART. II. There shall be *biennially* held a Convention of the Church in this Diocese on the last Wednesday in September in each of the four States by rotation, composed of Clerical and Lay Delegates, chosen by the State Conventions, each State being entitled to send one or more Delegates, not exceeding four of each order.

ART. III. The Convention shall deliberate and act in one body, but shall vote in distinct orders, when any Member shall call for such a division on any question ; and in such case a concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary to give validity to any measure.

ART. IV. The Bishop, or if no Bishop be present, a Clergyman chosen by ballot, shall be President of Convention.

ART. V. At each meeting of the Convention a Secretary shall be chosen by ballot, who shall keep a true and fair record of the proceedings of Convention, and at the close of each session shall furnish the Bishop with a copy of the same, or if there be no Bishop, the Standing Committee.

ART. VI. There shall be a Standing Committee elected at each stated Meeting of the Convention, consisting of *seven* persons, *one* of whom shall be from each State in the Diocese.

ART. VII. Whenever hereafter the Episcopate of this Diocese shall be vacant, the Standing Committee shall give information thereof to the Secretary of each State Convention in the Diocese, and also of the time and place of a

Special Convention for the purpose of filling up such vacancy ; which Special Convention shall consist of the Clergy belonging to the Diocese and a Lay Delegate from each of the Churches which may have been recognized by the Bishop or Standing Committee, and shall be held at least three months after such information is given, and in every election of Bishop, the Clergy shall make a nomination by ballot, which nomination shall be approved by a majority of the Lay Delegates present, before the choice shall be considered valid.

ART. VIII. Standing rules for the orderly conducting of business shall be devised from time to time in biennial Convention.

ART. IX. No State shall withdraw from this Diocese without the approbation of the House of Bishops.

ART. X. No alteration shall be made in this Constitution, but in biennial Convention, nor unless it has been proposed in a previous Convention, nor without the concurrence of a majority of the Delegation from at least three of the States in the Diocese.

Done in Convention of the Clerical and Lay Delegates of the Protestant Episcopal Churches of the Eastern Diocese, consisting of the Churches of Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, New-Hampshire and Vermont, *this thirty-first day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ten.*

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, Mr. John Whitlock, David Lewis, Esq., Daniel Chipman, Esq., Anson J. Sperry, Esq., Dudley Chase, Esq. and Dr. Edward Campbell, were chosen the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Vermont for the year ensuing.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Samuel Sewall, Horatio Seymour, Esq., Anson J. Sperry, Esq., Dr. Samuel Cutler and Mr. George Cleveland were chosen Deputies to represent this Diocese in the General Convention of the United States, to be held at New-Haven on the third Tuesday in May next.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, Truman Squier, Esq., David Lewis, Esq., Mr. John Whitlock, and Mr. George Cleveland were chosen Delegates to represent this Diocese in the Diocesan Convention to be held in Boston on the last Wednesday in September.

Voted. That the Secretary write to the Convention of the Church in Connecticut, requesting that the Clergy in said State may enter into some arrangements to make occasional visits to the Churches in this quarter.

Voted, That the next Convention of this Church meet at Wells. Adjourned.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.

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The following extract from the seventh of the Rev. Mr. Bronson's Historical Letters is here appropriate.

In 1809 "the Convention of Massachusetts directed their Secretary to invite their brethren in Rhode-Island, New-Hampshire and Vermont to join with them in the election of a Bishop. The Secretary, having no knowledge of any Churchmen in Vermont, made no communication to that State; but the Rev. William Montague, whose zeal and diligence did much for the cause at that interesting period, made a journey to New-Hampshire at a very inclement season, and, with the Rev. Mr. Barber, came over to Manchester to consult upon the subject. As the fund for supporting the Episcopate was expected to be raised principally in Massachusetts, the project appeared peculiarly favorable, giving encouragement of Episcopal ministrations at a small expense to the people. Having then no colleague in the State, I could decide the whole question as to the Clergy,—Mr. Sperry, then with me, and Mr. Chipman easily consulted by letter, the assent of the Standing Committee was soon obtained. The next May, Mr. Chipman of Middlebury, Mr. John Whitlock of Castleton and Dr. Cutler of Rockingham, and myself, with the Delegates from the other States contemplated, attended a Convention in Boston and formed the Constitution of the Eastern Diocese."



“After the adoption of this Constitution the Convention proceeded to the election of a Bishop. A respectable Clergyman in New-York, formerly resident in Massachusetts had been named for the office; but Dr. Gardner of Boston publicly protested against taking a candidate from abroad. He had told Dr. Crocker and myself in conversation, that as we could send our young men to other States for Orders, he saw no need of any Bishop among ourselves; but if others were anxious, he would propose Mr. Griswold of Rhode Island as being for age and character the most suitable candidate. We at once assented to the proposal, and communicated to Mr. Barber who cordially approved: the Clergy of Massachusetts, all except one, concurred; and the vote of the Laity was unanimous. Thus providentially transpired one of the most important events which has ever occurred to the Church in these Eastern States. Mr. Griswold at first declined the appointment, but was requested to defer a positive decision for the present. At length, by the earnest entreaties of his brethren and former associates in Connecticut, he was induced to accept, and was consecrated in New-York June 1811. Near the close of the same month he visited Vermont, attended the State Convention, and administered Confirmation at Wells, Manchester and Arlington.” *Gambier Observer*, November 21, 1834. *Episcopal Recorder*, March 7, 1835.

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During this year, 1810, an action of ejectment was brought by the town of Pawlet against Daniel Clark and others to recover possession of the Glebe Lot in that town. At the time this suit was commenced Mr. Bronson of Manchester was entitled to the rent. The case was decided at Washington in Feb. 1815.

An adjourned meeting of the Convention of the Eastern Diocese was holden in Trinity Church, Boston, September 25th 1810. To this Convention, the President, the Rev. Dr. Gardiner, communicated the following letter from the Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, the Bishop elect.

“BRISTOL, September, 12, 1810.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR;

As the time approaches, when our Convention according to adjournment, will again convene, it becomes necessary agreeably

to their resolution, that I should communicate to you my determination respecting their late election. It will be needless to trouble you with observations on my inability and disqualifications, which will too soon be known. The Convention were pleased to call me to a very sacred and important office, which requires the most serious consideration. At first indeed there appeared no room for doubt, or hesitation: there seemed to be every reason for declining an undertaking so arduous, so responsible in its nature, and for the effectual discharge of which I possessed so few of the requisite qualifications. But further reflection suggested that a call of this serious and important nature ought not to be declined any more than complied with, without great and mature deliberation; that we ought not to shrink from any duty, to which God is pleased to call us, from a conscious inability of doing ourselves honour, in case we can do good. Nor is the sacrifice of ease and other temporal comforts, necessary to the discharge of this, or any other office in the Church, sufficient excuse to satisfy the minds of those who have sincerely engaged in the Gospel Ministry. Having consulted with many, whose judgment and advice I have every reason to respect, it seems to be their general, if not unanimous voice, that the present peculiar state of this Diocese requires my acceptance of ye Episcopate; and, however desirable may be a more able and worthy candidate, that it is, under existing circumstances, my indispensable duty to acquiesce. To Him, therefore, who is able to make the humblest instruments subservient to the purposes of His providence, I yield the result. Should the Convention, who have now had time for more mature deliberation, judge it still expedient, all circumstances considered, to adhere to what they have [done], I shall not refuse any compliance with their wishes. Trusting in God, and their candid indulgence and friendly counsels, I shall devote my future hours to the good and benefit of those Churches whom the Lord shall please to put under my care; humbly endeavouring by zeal and diligence to supply what in other talents is deficient. With all due respect,

I am your friend and brother,

ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD.

REVEREND JOHN S. J. GARDINER,

President of the Convention."

The day following this adjourned meeting, the regular Convention of the Eastern Diocese assembled in Trinity Church, Boston. The following votes were passed having regard to the foregoing letter, the due support and consecration of the Rev. Mr. Griswold to the office of Bishop :

“Voted that Shubael Bell, the Rev. Wm. Montague, and Benj. Gardiner, Esq. be a Committee to wait on the Rev. Alexander V. Griswold and express to him that the Convention acknowledge with pleasure his acceptance of the Episcopate; and to assure him that they will cordially and faithfully co-operate with him in the discharge of his duty; and that he may receive a satisfactory and honourable support, they have chosen a Committee to devise ways and means for this purpose; also that the Convention return thanks to the Rev. Mr. Griswold for the excellent discourse delivered before them this day, and request a copy for the press.”

“Voted, that the Rev. John S. J. Gardiner, the Rev. Daniel Barber, the Rev. Abraham Bronson and the Rev. Nathan B. Crocker be a Committee to wait on the Bishop elect, and to present him to the House of Bishops for consecration at the meeting of the General Convention in May next.”

The consecration of the Bishop elect took place as contemplated in the foregoing vote. The following is a copy of the Letter of Consecration :

“*Know all men by these presents*, that we, Wm. White, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, presiding Bishop, Samuel Provoost, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of New-York, and Abraham Jarvis, D. D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Connecticut, under the protection of Almighty God, in Trinity Church in the City of New-York, on Wednesday the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven, did then and there rightly and canonically consecrate our beloved in Christ, Alexander Viets Griswold, Rector of St. Michael's Church, Bristol, Rhode Island, of whose sufficiency in good learning, soundness in the faith and purity of manners, we were fully ascertained, into the office of Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Eastern Diocese, composed of the States of Massachusetts

Rhode Island, New-Hampshire and Vermont, to which he hath been elected by the Convention of said States.

Given in the City of New York this twenty-ninth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

WILLIAM WHITE,  
SAMUEL PROVOOST,  
ABRAHAM JARVIS."

The foregoing documents and votes were copied from the Original Manuscript Records of the Eastern Diocese, in the archives of the Church in Massachusetts.

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1811.

WELLS, June 26, 1811.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Vermont met agreeably to appointment. The following gentlemen were present as Members, viz.

The Rt. Rev. ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese of the United States.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,

The Rev. PARKER ADAMS.

MANCHESTER :

Mr. JOSHUA FRENCH.

PAWLET :

Mr. JOSIAH SMITH.

WELLS :

DAVID LEWIS, Esq.

CASTLETON :

Mr. JOHN WHITLOCK.

WESTHAVEN :

Mr. GILBERT HARD.

MIDDLEBURY :

JOEL DOOLITTLE, Esq.

POULTNEY :

Mr. Z. LEWIS.



The Rt. Rev. the Bishop was requested to sit as President of the Convention.

The Rev. Mr. Bronson was chosen Secretary.

Adjourned to half past 3 o'clock.

Half past 3 o'clock.

The Convention met.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Parker Adams, Daniel Chipman, Esq., Dudley Chase, Esq. and Anson J. Sperry, Esq., were chosen the Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

Resolved, That the Standing Committee be and they are hereby authorized, in behalf of this Convention, to concur with the Board of Trustees of Donations in Boston in such mode of conveyance of the Lands of the Propagation Society in this State, as said Board shall deem proper.\*

The Rev. Mr. Bronson presented the form of a Canon, directing the mode of trying Clergymen accused of misdemeanor, which was adopted. (a)

The Rev. Mr. Adams presented the form of Canon, pointing out the mode of forming Churches, which was adopted. (b)

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Adams, Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Rt. Rev. the Bishop for his assistance as President of this Convention,

\* This Board was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts in 1810, under the name of "The Trustees of Donations to the Episcopal Church."

"At the origin of the Society, about five thousand seven hundred dollars were raised, forming the Bishop's Fund; the interest of which, together with the yearly subscription of nearly eighty members from various parts of the Diocese, was to be appropriated to the Bishop." "A further design of the incorporation is, to recover from loss, and to protect for the benefit of various particular churches throughout the Diocese, a vast landed property, the benefit of which, several Churches are now enjoying; and there is a reasonable prospect, that, in a few years, many others will realize similar advantages. To these objects the Society have given constant and unwearied exertion." Gospel Advocate, vol. iii, p. 33.

and likewise for his Sermon this day delivered before the Convention, requesting a copy of the same for the press.

The Secretary was directed to present the foregoing Resolution and Request to the Bishop which was done by him accordingly.

Voted, That the next Convention of this Church be held at Middlebury.

Adjourned, sine die.

## PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

The Rev. PARKER ADAMS for the seven months last past reported as follows:

*Vergennes*: Baptisms—children, 5. *Middlebury*: Baptisms—children, 10. *Charlotte*: Baptisms—children, 4. *Abroad*: Baptisms—children 7, adult 1.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON for the past year reported as follows:

*Arlington*: Baptisms—adult 1, children 4. *Manchester*: Baptisms—adult 1, children 4. *Abroad*: Baptisms—children, 2.

Marriages at *Arlington*, 2; Communicants, 44. Communicants at *Manchester*, 13.

## CANONS

PASSED BY THE CONVENTION, JUNE 26TH, 1811.

(a) Canon I. Of the mode of trying Clergymen accused of misdemeanor.

Whenever any Clergyman of this Church shall be accused of infidelity, heresy, vice or irregularity of any kind, the accuser or accusers shall transmit a copy of the charge, signed by him or them, to the Standing Committee; and if they shall deem it worthy of notice, they shall report thereupon to the Bishop, who may summon a council of his Clergy, not less than three,—a copy of the charge and due notice of the time and place of trial being

likewise communicated to the party accused,—and after a full and fair investigation of the subject, the Bishop may pronounce sentence in the case. If any minister degraded by this Canon, shall consider himself agrieved, he shall be allowed an appeal to the House of Bishops.

(b) Canon II. Of the manner of forming Churches.

As it is deemed impracticable at present to fix boundaries to the several cures that may be formed in this State, and as it is important to be entitled to the privileges of incorporated religious societies in this State, each Church hereafter to be formed shall, agreeably to the law of this State, form themselves on the following plan. A Minister, with the advice of the Clergy in regular standing in this State, shall give notice in time of public service to the Episcopalians of any town two weeks previous to the time of Meeting. At which meeting shall be chosen by ballot or otherwise, two Wardens, and three or more Vestrymen, to hold office until their successors are chosen, which may be done annually. The accession of members at the first meeting shall be by subscribing a written instrument expressive of their intention to join. No person that has subscribed said instrument shall be exempt from any regulations or restrictions of said Society till he shall have presented to the Wardens, or Clerk of said Society, a certificate in writing, that he wishes no longer to be considered a member of said society. Any Society thus formed, with an appropriate name, shall be considered in union with the Church in this State, and shall be entitled to a delegation to the State Convention. Any number of Episcopalians may, without the presence or direction of a Clergyman, form themselves into a Society, and submit their proceedings to the Convention, and, if no objections appear, shall be admitted into union.

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“At the General Convention in 1811, by the assistance of the Hon. Rufus King of New-York, a Resolution passed the lower House, requesting the presiding Bishop to address a letter to the Society in our behalf. Much other preparation was also made for a vigorous application, as soon as a friendly intercourse should be opened between the two countries. This took place, as is well

known, in the beginning of 1815." Mr. Bronson's Letters. Gambier Observer, Nov. 7, 1834. Episcopal Recorder, Feb. 28, 1835.

While these steps were taken in this country in regard to the Propagation Rights, the Society in England, on account of the various applications and representations made to them, were giving the subject of their property in this State more definite and serious consideration.

"At a meeting of the Society on the 16th of November 1810, the Secretary of the Society was directed to obtain the fullest and most particular information respecting the nature and value of the rights of the Society to the lands in Vermont, with the best means of recovering and rendering the same available." Peters' Reports, vol. iv, p. 483.

## 1812.

MIDDLEBURY, June 24th, 1812.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met pursuant to constitutional appointment. Present,

The Rev. PARKER ADAMS,  
The Rev. STEPHEN JEWETT.

WELLS:

DAVID LEWIS, Esq.

CASTLETON:

JOHN WHITLOCK.

VERGENNES:

EZRA PERRY.

FAIRFIELD:

BRADLEY BARLOW.

Stephen Hard, Daniel Chipman, Horatio Seymour, George Cleveland and Joel Doolittle were requested to take seats in the Convention.



The Convention being assembled, the Rev. Parker Adams was chosen President and Joel Doolittle, Secretary.

The Rev. Parker Adams, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Jewett, Anson J. Sperry, Daniel Chipman, Ezra Perry and Horatio Seymour were duly chosen a Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

The Rev. Parker Adams, the Rev. Stephen Jewett, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Anson J. Sperry, Abijah Williams and Francis Bradbury were duly chosen Delegates from the Diocese of Vermont to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese to be holden at Providence, R. I., in September next.

The Rev. Dr. John Kewley was duly appointed to preach a Sermon at the next annual Convention in this Diocese, and the Rev. Parker Adams, in case Dr. Kewley should fail to be present, was appointed his Substitute.

Pursuant to the 45th Canon of the General Convention the Parochial Reports were called for and read as follows :

St. Paul's Church, *Vergennes* : Baptisms—adults 2, children 9 ; Funerals 10 ; Marriage 1 ; Communicants, 16.

The First Episcopal Society of Addison County, *Middlebury* : Baptisms—adult, 1, infant, 1 ; Communicants, 10. The Rev. PARKER ADAMS, officiating Minister in both places.

In *Pawlet*, *Wells*, and other neighboring towns in Vermont: Baptisms—adult 1, infants, 19 ; Funerals, 5 ; Marriages, 2.

S. JEWETT, Minister.

PAWLET, June 22, 1812.

Resolved by the Convention, That the several Churches in Union with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, be requested to raise by contribution or otherwise such sum or sums of money as they may think proper to be transmitted by their respective Delegates, to the Annual Convention, to be appropriated in such way as said Convention may deem expedient.

Convention adjourned.

Attest, JOEL DOOLITTLE, Secretary.

September 30, 1812, the Biennial Convention of the Eastern Diocese met in Providence, R. I. The Rev. Parker Adams was the only delegate present from Vermont.

Bishop Griswold made the following statement respecting his official acts and the condition of the Diocese :

“RESPECTED BRETHREN,

THE CLERICAL AND LAY DELEGATES OF THIS CONVENTION :—

I now for the first time meet you since my appointment to the Episcopal jurisdiction in this Diocese ; and the 45th Canon of the General Convention makes it my duty on this occasion to lay before you the situation of our Churches and the official duties which I have performed. With very few exceptions, I have visited the Churches of this Diocese once, and some of them a second time, and the present appearances are, that most of them are increasing in numbers and piety, and attentive to the doctrines and discipline of the Church. In these visitations I have administered the holy rite of Confirmation to 1212 persons, and have very generally and with much satisfaction witnessed the appearance of great sincerity and devotion in those who received it. St. John's Church in Providence and St. Andrew's Church, in Hanover, Massachusetts, have been consecrated to the service of God. Messrs Chever Felch, Walter Cranston, John P. K. Henshaw and Evan M. Johnson have been admitted as Candidates for Holy Orders. The Rev. Aaron Humphrey has been ordained to the holy order of Deacons. The Rev. Parker Adams and the Rev. Charles Burroughs, deacons, have been ordained Presbyters. Mr. Humphrey officiates at Gardner, in the District of Maine ; Mr. Adams in the Churches at Middlebury and Vergennes, in Vermont. The Rev. Stephen Jewett, Deacon, officiates one half of the time at Pawlet and Wells in the last mentioned State. The Rev. Joab G. Cooper from the State of New-York has been instituted in the Church at Hanover, Mass. and Mr. Burroughs in the Church at Portsmouth.

To this statement, Brethren, I have only to add my prayers that the Lord will inspire us with wisdom, unity and zeal, and that He will direct our counsels and prosper our labors to the advancement of His glory and ye prosperity of his people.

ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD.”

The foregoing Address was copied from the Records of the Eastern Diocese before referred to.

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1813.

MIDDLEBURY, June 23d, 1813.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met pursuant to constitutional appointment, and on motion, adjourned to the 24th inst. at two o'clock, P. M.

June 24th, 1813.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Present from abroad,

The Rev. SIMON WILMER, of *New Jersey*.

The Rev. MR. HUMPHREY, of *Massachusetts*.

The Hon. Daniel Chipman was chosen President and Joel Doolittle, Secretary.

The following persons were duly chosen as the Standing Committee for this Diocese, for the year ensuing, viz. the Rev. Parker Adams, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Anson J. Sperry, Esq., Daniel Chipman, Esq. and Horatio Seymour, Esq.

The following persons were duly chosen as Deputies to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, viz.

*Clerical.*

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, The Rev. J. P. K. Henshaw.  
The Rev. Parker Adams,

*Lay.*

Truman Squier, Esq.,	Hon. Horatio Seymour,
Jonathan Baker, Esq.,	Col. Bradley Barlow,
Sylvester Deming, Esq.,	Nathan Lobdell,
Anson J. Sperry, Esq.,	Daniel Henshaw.
Joel Doolittle, Esq.,	

Voted, That the next Convention be holden at Fairfield in the County of Franklin.

The Convention adjourned, without day.

Attest, JOEL DOOLITTLE, Secretary.

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1814.

FAIRFIELD, June 22d, 1814.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met agreeably to appointment.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson read Prayers and the Rev. J. P. K. Henshaw delivered a Sermon.

Col. Bradley Barlow of Fairfield, Ebenezer Marvin, Jun. Esq., of St. Albans and Mr. Abijah Hawley of Fairfax, took their seats as lay Delegates.

The Rev. Mr. Henshaw was requested to sit as President of the Convention, and the Rev. Mr. Bronson was chosen Secretary.

Voted, That all the gentlemen present belonging to the Church be admitted to seats in this Convention.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, George Cleveland and Anson J. Sperry, Esq., were appointed the Standing Committee of this Diocese for the year ensuing.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, Daniel Chipman, Esq., Anson J. Sperry, Esq., Elizur Hubbard, Esq., and Doct. Samuel Cutler were appointed Delegates to represent this Diocese in the next Convention of the Eastern Diocese.

The next annual Convention of this Diocese was appointed at Arlington.

Adjourned.

Attest, ABRAHAM BRONSON, Secretary.



It is deemed proper to append to the foregoing Journal, a part of the Charge to the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese delivered by Bishop Griswold before the Biennial Convention in Portsmouth, N. H., Sept. 28, 1814. The lapse of time has in no way impaired the pertinency of it:

“REVEREND BRETHREN IN CHRIST,  
AND CHRISTIAN FRIENDS:—

The twenty-third Canon of the General Convention makes it the duty of every Bishop of our Church in these United States, to deliver ‘Charges to the Clergy of his Diocese.’ This duty, in the events of Divine Providence, has devolved upon one the least worthy to address you on such an occasion, and who, at the present time would rather hear than speak. But, called as I am to this office, it is fruitless to waste your time with apologies, or to anticipate those defects, which too soon will be apparent. The discourse which is well heard, ‘with an honest and good heart,’ and faithfully applied to practical purposes, is seldom wholly unprofitable; and this good result may at least be expected from the following observations. It will be attempted to show the state and progress of our spiritual labors, and direct your attention to some of those important duties, to which, as ministers of Jesus Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God, we are now more especially called.”

“First of all we ought, brethren, and most earnestly, to call for united and fervent acknowledgements of gratitude and praise to the Father of mercies, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that this Convention is permitted once more to meet, under circumstances, so auspicious to the continued peace and prosperity of our communion. When we reflect on the many and complicated discouragements and obstacles, under which the formation of this Diocese commenced; the diminished and declining state of our Churches; the unsocial habits of our brethren, from their remote and unorganized situation; while the avails of the property, which had been charitably designed for religious purposes, were, in a great degree, diverted into other channels, and alienated from the use intended by the pious Donors: and when we further consider, notwithstanding these impediments, what, and how much beyond our expectation has been our prosperity; what blessing has

attended the few zealous efforts which have already been made; what unanimity has prevailed in our councils; what success attended our measures,—must we not see, and can we hesitate to acknowledge the hand of God, and the special favour of His kind Providence? How ought this earnest of His goodness to awaken our zeal, and animate us to greater and persevering exertions! Our work is but commenced. How vast the field which opens before us! The harvest truly is great, and the labourers few.”

“Among the things, which demand your wisest counsels and most vigorous efforts, stand first and most conspicuous the small number of our Churches; the declining state of some, which yet remain; and the still less number of ministers to labour in them. From the last of these evils evidently have proceeded, in no small degree, the other two. Many opportunities have passed away, and now are lost, where, in various parts of these four States, Churches with large and respectable congregations might have been established; but, through want of clergymen to encourage the wishes, animate the zeal, and lead the devotions of the people, necessity has compelled them to form religious connections less agreeable to their choice and belief. In other instances, and they are not few, efforts are still making by pious individuals, or by small organized societies, to commence, or to continue their existence as Episcopal Churches; but there are no ministers of Christ to second their exertions; to preach the word, and administer among them in holy things. Clouds of despondency darken around them; their efforts languish, and their zeal is ‘ready to die.’ And, notwithstanding the few bright exceptions, which enliven the scene, we may well take up the lamentation of the prophet and bewail ‘that the ways of Zion do mourn;’ ‘her gates are desolate;’ ‘her pleasant things decay;’ ‘her people sigh’ while ‘they seek their bread;’ while they feel the ‘famine of hearing the word of God.’ What is highly necessary to the increase and prosperity of the Church in every Diocese is peculiarly so in this: a competent number of clergymen, endued with knowledge, piety and zeal. Ministers of Christ we need, who possess the spirit of their Divine Master, and emulate the fidelity of His first Apostles; who have a serious concern for the salvation of mankind—a deep sense of the truths which they teach, and who illustrate and

enforce their heavenly doctrine, by their own good example. We need those, who will 'seek *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness;' whose meat and drink it is to do His will; who can renounce the world for Christ's sake, and prefer His glory to their own. In Churches, well established, a very moderate share of these necessary things—a decent deportment, and formal routine of official duties, may preserve them from decline. But here we have to *strengthen* the things which remain: we have to build up the waste places of Zion; to repair the ruins of what is decayed; nay, to build anew from the foundation. There is still, in many places, a call for our labours, where, by proper means and due attention, new Churches of our communion may yet, with the Divine blessing, be raised up; where we may apparently be very instrumental in promoting the general interests of good morals and true religion; of extending the Redeemer's Kingdom, and the knowledge and comforts of His Salvation; and contributing to the increase and stability of public happiness and social order."

"It is a duty then, highly incumbent, brethren, on us, whom the Lord has set as watchmen on this portion of Zion's towers, by all possible means, to supply this deficiency of labourers; by praying fervently and daily, that the Lord of the harvest will send them; by encouraging worthy clergymen to come amongst and continue with us, and by bringing forward suitable candidates for the holy ministry: remembering, however, that their qualifications are far more essential, than their numbers. Those, who have not the necessary foundation of inward piety and love of God—who appear not, from conscientious motives and a deep sense of its importance, to be seriously and zealously engaged in the sacred cause, however splendid or popular may be their talents, will be of little real use in any Church, and least of all in ours. There are those, we fear, and their numbers not few, who run to this work before they are sent; who enter the sacred ministry, without a due sense of its nature, and of the awful responsibility attached to the office. Those, most worthy and best qualified, are often the most diffident; and such should be sought for and encouraged to devote themselves to God. We need such, as have the good of religion more at heart, than its emoluments: those,

who follow Christ for His sake; who are willing to labour, before they reap—to make some sacrifice in the Redeemer's cause, that the poor may have the Gospel preached unto them."

"It is a further duty, incumbent on us, in which, however, we can do but little without the aid of our lay brethren and the people of our congregations, to supply such Churches as are poor and destitute, with the preaching of the Word, the administration of the Sacraments and other means of religious edification."

"True it is, that each minister of Christ has his peculiar charge—his family of Christians to provide for—a little flock committed to his care. In this charge it is indeed of the first importance; that he be found faithful—that the blessings of religion be diffused through every part of his cure, and each cottage be consoled with the salvation of our God. But we are bound to extend our care, as the Lord shall give us means, to other parts of His vineyard, and call upon our flocks to assist us. In this labour of love, should every Christian, according to his state and abilities, unite. And what Christian will say, that he cannot contribute something, to so good a work? And who, that is able, will refuse to assist us? Freely have we received: freely let us give. Shall any, to whom the arm of the Lord is revealed—who are called to a knowledge of Divine grace, and enjoy themselves the blessings of the Gospel, feel no solicitude to dispense the same blessings to all whom they equally concern? Are we refreshed, at the fountain of living waters, with bread enough and to spare, and yet have no compassion for those who are perishing with hunger?—who are parched in a thirsty land where no water is?"

"Is it not a fact, that we place improper reliance upon our orthodoxy, as supposing that truth will spread of itself and bear away the prize; while others on a worse foundation, by using better diligence, build with more rapidity? How is it to be lamented that knowledge and zeal, which God has joined together, should so often by man be put asunder! Divine truth was never popular in this world, and never will be popular, till the nature of man is changed. While the true labourer *sleeps*, the enemy, ever vigilant, sows tares; and when sown, they take such root that they *must grow*. They who are zealous in propagating the doctrines of Christ, though with some mixture of error, will be more



successful, and indeed more useful, than others who, with a sounder creed, are lukewarm. If we would maintain that rank among the champions of the cross to which we think ourselves entitled, let us not rely on the paper arms of canons, creeds and articles; but put on the whole armour of God: let us press forwards amidst the perils of the holy warfare, the first in labours, or not the first in fame. When Peter the Apostle was going forth to the good fight of faith, how did his Master direct him to distinguish his love above that of others? By his fidelity in dispensing the words of life: 'feed my lambs—feed my sheep.' Those who thus 'rule well,' and 'labour in the word and doctrine,' with fidelity, shall 'be counted worthy of double honour.' Let us be so distinguished."

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To this Convention Bishop Griswold made the following Address;

"RESPECTED BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:

After the exercises already performed, it would be inexpedient to detain this Convention with any further Address than what is indispensably required by the 45th Canon; according to the requisitions of which I shall proceed briefly to lay before you the state of the Churches and my official ministrations since your last meeting.

In the course of the two years confirmations have been holden at Newport, Bristol and Providence; at Trinity and Christ Churches in Boston; also at Salem, Newbury Port, Dedham, Newton, Greenfield; at Portsmouth, Claremont, Middlebury, Fairfield and Cornish. Other Churches have been visited. The whole number confirmed is 429. The administration of this rite appears generally to have been attended with the Divine blessing, and to have had a very good and pleasing effect in exciting piety and devout affections; and most earnestly is it to be wished that the friends of our Church—its ministers especially, were more careful and diligent to teach the nature, design and usefulness of Confirmation, that all may know and feel their duty, and be prepared to receive it with those godly motives and pious affections which are chiefly necessary to the obtaining of the spiritual benefits of this ordinance.

Two new Churches in Massachusetts, at Newton and Greenfield, have been erected, and solemnly consecrated to the worship of Almighty God. The zeal and pious labours of the congregations or people, through whose great exertions, assisted by the generous contributions of many individuals in other towns and States, these Churches have been erected, merit the thanks and the applause of every Christian; and with great pleasure do I take this opportunity of bearing testimony to their laudable example. With some further encouragement and aid from their charitable Christian friends there is a good prospect that through the blessing of God, two flourishing parishes will be added to our communion.

The Rev. Nathaniel Huse, Deacon of Connecticut has been ordained priest; and Mr. Evan M. Johnson, then of the same state, Deacon. Messrs. John P. K. Henshaw, Titus Strong, and Silas S. Safford, have also been admitted to the order of Deacons. On the list of Candidates for Holy Orders in this Diocese, there remain Messrs. Chever Felch, Walter Cranston, James B. Howe, Thomas Carlisle and Isaac Bayle.

By the death of the Rev. Nathaniel Fisher the Church in Salem has become and still remains vacant. The Churches, also, in Marblehead, Gardiner, Vergennes, and several others are destitute of ministers in Holy Orders. The Rev. Parker Adams and the Rev. Mr. Henshaw have removed from this Diocese into the State of New-York. The Rev. James Bowers officiates in Narraganset, the Rev. Titus Strong in Greenfield, the Rev. Mr. Safford in Middlebury.

Agreeably to a resolution of the Biennial Convention of 1812, a circular Address was sent to the several Churches in the Diocese for a contribution on the ensuing Easter, which with very few exceptions was complied with, and the sum of about 550 dollars transmitted to the Treasurer of the Board of the Trustees of Donations, This favourable commencement promised a little fund which would be of very great utility to this Diocese, where are many small Churches which very much need charitable assistance. But these pleasing anticipations have been since but partially realized. On Easter last but few Churches had any contributions, and the whole sum collected was but about 150 Dollars. Of

these contributions 165 dollars have been appropriated to the printing and distributing of tracts, which from some peculiar circumstances, not unfavourable, has been delayed. The Rev. Mr. Henshaw was employed about one year as a missionary, who officiated chiefly in Marblehead and received from this fund 100 dollars. The Rev. Mr. Humphery has also been engaged to officiate for a few months in Taunton and Bridgewater. To him 50 dollars have been paid, and about as much more is probably due. We have made a reserve in favour of some other Churches, especially in Vermont, still hoping to find some fit person to send among them. There are also some petitions for assistance from this fund, which I did not think myself authorized to grant without the advice of this Convention.

That the Lord may assist our counsels, awaken our zeal, and bless our labours to His glory, and the peace and prosperity of His Church, is the sincere prayer, Gentlemen, of your friend and brother,

ALEX. V. GRISWOLD."

The foregoing Address is copied from the Records of the Eastern Diocese.

In the Convention of the Eastern Diocese in 1814 no Delegate was present from Vermont. But, seemingly with a view to some petition or overture from some party in this State, the following action was had in reference to the Glebe Lands. Although this property was mostly taken from the Church during the next year by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Pawlet against Clark, yet it may be well to record what, in regard to it, was contemplated. The Convention of 1812 passed a similar vote respecting the Glebe Lands in New-Hampshire.

On motion voted and resolved, That the Trustees of Donations to the Protestant Episcopal Church be, and they hereby are authorized, empowered and required to take and exercise all the right and authority which this Convention possesses in relation to certain Glebe Lands, situate in the State of Vermont; and that said Trustees hereafter have and exercise the charge, care and disposition of the said lands in the same full and ample manner, and for the same purposes as this Convention would do;

to whom all the power, right and authority of said Convention in and about the premises are hereby granted and transferred.

Voted and resolved, That the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, William Winthrop, Esq. and the Rev. Mr. Bronson be, and they hereby are appointed a Committee to execute under seal a sufficient conveyance of said Glebe Lands in conformity to the preceding vote.

On motion resolved, That a Committee be appointed by the Bishop to wait on General Morris of Springfield, Vermont, and inform him, that in the opinion of this Convention, the Trustees of Donations to the Protestant Episcopal Church are a proper authority to receive in trust the Church Lands now in his possession, and to request him to convey the same to said Trustees." Records Eastern Diocese.

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## 1815.

Arlington, June 28th, 1815.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Vermont met agreeably to appointment.

The Rev. Stephen Jewet read Prayers and the Rev. Silas Safford delivered a Sermon.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, *Arlington*,

The Rev. SILAS SAFFORD, *Middlebury*,

Mr. ENOS CANFIELD, *Arlington*,

Mr. JEREMIAH STRATTON, *Manchester*,

Mr. CALVIN SELLAN, *Middlebury*,

took their seats as Members of the Convention.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen President and Anson J. Sperry, Secretary.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Silas Safford and Anson J. Sperry were appointed the Standing Committee of this Diocese for the year ensuing.

Pursuant to the 45th Canon of the General Convention the Parochial Reports were called for and read as follows :



## ARLINGTON.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms — Adult, 1; Children, 7; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 75.

## MANCHESTER.

THE REV ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms — Children, 5; Marriages, 1; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 20; Funerals, abroad, 2.

## MIDDLEBURY.

THE REV. SILAS SAFFORD, MINISTER.

Baptisms — Children, 6; Baptisms abroad, Children, 1; Funerals, 4; Marriages, 2.

The following Preamble and Resolution were passed :

Whereas the Board of Trustees of Donations to the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Eastern Diocese, in the United States of America, in view of a Resolution of the General Convention, of the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in said States, holden in the City of New Haven, on the third Tuesday in May 1811, have recommended to the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in England, the Rt. Rev. Alexander Viets Griswold, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, of Rhode Island, the Rev. Silas Safford, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Hon. Daniel Chipman and Anson J. Sperry, Esq. of Vermont, all of said Diocese, as Agents and Attornies, to whom the Society may with safety confide the care of their Lands, in said State of Vermont, therefore in pursuance of said Resolution of the General Convention aforesaid—

Resolved, That the Ecclesiastical Convention of Vermont do fully approve of the Rt. Rev. Alexander Viets Griswold,

Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, including the State of New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island, Massachusetts and Vermont, of Rhode-Island, the Rev. Silas Safford, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Hon. Daniel Chipman, and Anson J. Sperry, Esq. of Vermont, above named as suitable and proper persons as Agents and Attornies, to whom the Venerable Society aforesaid, may with safety confide the care of their Lands above named, with such power and authority as the Society shall deem expedient and proper to grant ; and the Standing Committee of this Convention are hereby especially instructed and directed, from time to time, to take such measures as they shall think most advisable, to obtain the object aforesaid. (a)

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Bronson the following Canon in leiu of the second Canon now in force, was passed :

OF THE MODE OF FORMING AND ORGANIZING CHURCHES.

Whenever any number of persons in this State shall form themselves into a regular Society, of the persuasion of the Protestant Episcopal Church in such a manner that will become a body corporate according to law, and their proceedings shall be sanctioned by the Bishop of the Diocese, or in case of no Bishop, by the Standing Committee of the State Convention, they shall be admitted to all the rights and privileges of a regular Church, subject, however, at all times to the authority and discipline of said Bishop, or if there is no Bishop, of said Standing Committee.

Voted, That the *second* of the former Canons be and the same is hereby repealed.

Voted, That the next Convention of this Diocese be holden at Vergennes, on the fourth Wednesday of June, 1816.

The Convention adjourned, without day.

Attest, ANSON J. SPERRY, Secretary.

(a) Dr. Stewart, who had been long waiting the favorable moment, visited Vermont in May of that year—1815—and proposed to take charge of our petition. The papers were immediately prepared, were signed the next month in Convention at Arlington and forwarded to Dr. Stewart in Canada, who set off for Europe in July. In December following the Society passed a resolution to grant our request, but directed their Secretary to require of the Agents a bond against any costs which might arise in suits for the recovery of the lands. This occasioned a delay of one year or more, so that the power of attorney with the affidavits and certificates of its authenticity was not received till April 1817.” It is due to Bishop Stewart to state, that though he spent much time, and seventy or eighty dollars in attending to the business yet after a delay of four or five years, he would accept of no more than sixty dollars; and even that he generously gave to the Church in the States. Bronson’s Letters, Gambier Observer, Nov. 7, 1834. Episcopal Recorder, Feb. 28, 1835.

In February of this year the suit of the Town of Pawlet against Daniel Clark and others, commenced in 1810, involving the Glebe Reservations, in the New Hampshire Grants, was decided in the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington. The following account of the case, of the decision, and of the subsequent action of the State, may be here properly inserted.

This was a case certified from the Circuit Court for the district of Vermont, in which upon an action of ejectment brought by the town of Pawlet to recover possession of the Glebe lot as it was called, in that town, the opinions of the Judges of that court were opposed upon the question, whether judgment should be rendered for the plaintiff or for the defendants, upon a verdict found, subject to the opinion of the court upon the following case stated:

“In this cause it is agreed on the part of the plaintiffs that the lands, demanded in the plaintiff’s declaration, are a part of the land granted, in the charter of the town of Pawlet, by the former Governor of the province of New Hampshire, as a Glebe for the Church of England as by law established; and that in the year 1802 there was in the town of Pawlet a society of Episcopalians duly organized agreeably to the rules and regulations of that denomination of Christians heretofore commonly known and called

by the name of the Church of England. That in the same year the said society contracted with the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, a regular ordained Minister of the Episcopal Church, who then resided in Shelbourne, in the County of Chittenden, but had not any settlement as clerk or pastor therein, to preach to the said society in the town of Pawlet at certain stated times, and to receive the avails of the lands in question, and that the said Chittenden thereupon gave a lease of the said land to Daniel Clark and others, who went into the possession of the premises, and still hold the same under the said lease, and that the said Chittenden preached regularly and administered the ordinances to the people of the said society, according to his said contract, and received the rents and profits of the said land until the year of our Lord Christ 1809, when the said Chittenden deceased; and that in 1809 the said Society contracted with the Rev. Abraham Brownson, a regular ordained minister of the Episcopal Church, residing in Manchester, and officiating there a part of the time, to preach to the said society a certain share of the time, and to receive the rents and profits of the said lands; and that the said Brownson has regularly attended to his duty in the said Church, and administered ordinances in the same until September, 1811, about which time the said Society regularly settled the Rev. Stephen Jewett, who now resides in the said town of Pawlet, and who from the time of his settlement is to receive all the temporalities of the said Church. And it is further agreed by the said parties, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, on the 5th of November 1805, did grant to the several towns in this State, in which they respectively lie, all the lands granted by the king of Great Britain to the Episcopalian Church by law established, and that the lands, in the plaintiff's declaration mentioned and described, are part of the lands so granted by the king of Great Britain to the Episcopalian Church."

This cause was argued in 1814 by Messrs. Pitkin and Webster, for the Plaintiffs, and by Mr. Shepherd, for the Defendants. At the February Term 1815, Mr. Justice Story delivered the Opinion of the majority of the Court. This opinion was "that upon the special statement of facts by the parties, judgment ought to pass for the Plaintiffs."



The following synopsis will indicate the ground taken by the Majority of the Court :

This Court has jurisdiction, where one party claims land under a grant from the State of New-Hampshire, and the other under a grant from the State of Vermont, although at the time of the first grant, Vermont was part of New-Hampshire.

A grant of a tract of land in equal shares to sixty-three persons, to be divided among them into sixty-eight equal shares, with a specific appropriation of five shares, conveys only a sixty-eighth part to each person. If one of the shares be declared to be "for a Glebe for the Church of England as by law established," that share is not holden in trust by the grantees, nor is it a condition annexed to their rights or shares.

The Church of England is not a body-corporate, and cannot receive a donation *eo nomine*.

A grant to the Church of such a place is good at common law, and vests the fee in the parson and his successors. If such a grant be made by the crown, it cannot be resumed by the crown at its pleasure. Land at common law may be granted to pious uses before there is a grantee in existence competent to take it, and in the mean time the fee will be in abeyance. Such a grant cannot be resumed at the pleasure of the crown.

The common law, so far as it related to the erection of Churches of the Episcopal persuasion of England, the right to present or collate to such Churches, and the corporate capacity of the parsons thereof to take in succession, was recognized and adopted in New-Hampshire. It belonged exclusively to the crown to erect the Church in each town that should be entitled to take the Glebe, and upon such erection to collate, through the Governor, a parson to the benefice.

A voluntary society of Episcopalians within a town, unauthorized by the crown, could not entitle themselves to the Glebe. Where no such Church was duly erected by the crown, the Glebe remained as an *haereditas jacens*, and the state which succeeded to the rights of the crown, might, with the assent of the town, alien or encumber it; or might erect an Episcopalian Church therein, and collate, either directly or through the vote of the town indirectly, its parson, who would thereby become seized of the Glebe

*jure ecclesiæ*, and be a corporation capable of transmitting the inheritance.

By the Revolution, the State of Vermont succeeded to all the rights of the crown, to the unappropriated as well as appropriated Glebes.

By the statute of Vermont of the 30th of October 1794, the respective towns became entitled to the property of the Glebes therein situated.

A legislative grant cannot be repealed.

No Episcopal Church in Vermont can be entitled to the Glebe, unless it was duly erected by the crown before the Revolution, or by the State since. 3 Curtis' Rep. 358—374. (9 Cranch 292.)

An Act of the Legislature, passed in 1816, properly belongs here, and finishes thus far the history of the Glebe Rights:

*It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That the Selectmen of the town of Pawlet are hereby authorized and directed to collect and appropriate the rents arising from the Glebe lands in said Pawlet, to an amount not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars, and apply the monies collected therefrom to the discharge and payment of the costs and expenses which the said town has been subject to, in prosecuting a suit tried and determined before the Supreme Court of the United States holden at the city of Washington, in favor of said town against Daniel Clark of said Pawlet, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."* Passed Nov. 5, 1816. Laws of Vermont October Session 1816, pp. 96, 97.

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## 1816.

VERGENNES, June 26th, 1816.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, met agreeably to appointment.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen President and the Rev. Silas Safford, Secretary, pro tem. The following gentlemen were present as Members:

The Rev. STEPHEN BEACH.

SHELBURNE:

JOHN SIMONDS.

VERGENNES:

SMITH BOOTH.

MIDDLEBURY:

DANIEL HENSHAW.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach, and Anson J. Sperry, were appointed the Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Rev. Silas Safford, Daniel Henshaw, Esq., A. W. Barnum, Esq., Mr. Orange Ferris and Mr. Martin C. Deming, were appointed Deputies to the next General Convention of the United States to be holden in the City of New York, on the third Tuesday of May 1817.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson, Arlington; the Rev. Stephen Beech, Fairfield; the Rev. Silas Safford, Middlebury; the Hon. Dudley Chase, Randolph; Col. Bradley Barlow, Fairfield; A. W. Barnum, Esq., Vergennes; and the Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard, Windsor; were appointed Delegates to the Diocesan Convention to be holden at Windsor in the State of Vermont on the last Wednesday in September 1816.

Daniel Henshaw, Middlebury; Maj. John S. Gallop, Sheldon; Thomas Leverett, Esq., Windsor; and Anson J. Sperry, Esq., Manchester; were appointed as Substitutes for the above Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Anson J. Sperry, Esq. was elected Secretary of the Convention.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be requested to circulate a paper for subscriptions among the friends of the Church, in this State, for the purpose of raising money to prosecute the claim of the Church to the Society Lands.

Voted, That the Standing Committee be directed to appoint a place for the next Meeting of this Convention, and cause notice thereof to be seasonably given in the public papers.

Pursuant to the 45th Canon of the General Convention the parochial reports were read as follows, viz.

### ARLINGTON.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms—Adults, 1, Children, 7; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 15; Communicants, 70.

### MANCHESTER.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 1; Marriages, 1; Funerals, 5; Communicants, 20.

### MIDDLEBURY.

THE REV. SILAS SAFFORD, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 3; Marriages, 1; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 13;

### FAIRFIELD.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 15; Burials, 2; Communicants, 44.

### ST. ALBANS.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 10; Burials, 1; Communicants 10.

### SHELDON.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 3; Communicants, 11.

The Convention adjourned, sine die.

SILAS SAFFORD, Secretary pro tem.



The following extracts from the "Address to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese, holden at Windsor, Vermont, September 25, 1816, by the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold," are here appropriate.

"MY FRIENDS AND BRETHREN :

Through the merciful goodness of our God and Saviour, we are permitted to convene for the very important purpose of consulting on the interest and welfare of that portion of Christ's Church intrusted to our ministry and oversight, and to transact such business, as by its constitution and usage, appertains to this Convention. It becomes my duty at this time to lay before you a statement of my official proceeding since our last meeting, and such other things respecting the condition of our Churches, as may assist your deliberations, and lead to those measures, which shall best promote their interest and prosperity."

"There have been admitted, as Candidates for Holy Orders, Jonathan M. Wainwright, Gideon Olney, George T. Chapman, Joseph R. Andrus, Alston Gibbs, Benjammin B. Smith, Reuel Keith, George Otis and ——— Tafts."

"To the Holy Order of Deacons have been admitted, Walter Cranston, John L. Blake, Stephen Beach, Thomas Carlile, Chever Felch, George S. White, Joseph R. Andrus, and George T. Chapman. Also, the Rev. Titus Strong and the Rev. John L. Blake, Deacons, have been ordained Priests."

"Mr. Beach is now officiating in Fairfield, Sheldon and St. Albans, in Vermont: and of his success we have the most pleasing intelligence. A very considerable number of communicants have already been added to those Churches. Large congregations attend his preaching. A spirit of religious inquiry and awakened concern for the one thing needful, extensively prevails in those parts; and cheering are the prospects of still greater increase, both in members and piety. At Fairfield they are erecting a house for the worship of God, and already is the pious work in great forwardness. Indeed the number of new Churches which are now building, or will probably soon be commenced, is one of the best proofs of the increasing zeal amongst our people, for the service of God, and support of His holy worship. It is a zeal which ought to be much encouraged and a work to which we should lend every possible aid. The want of

Churches is one of the great inconveniences which we have to contend with. At Bellows Falls, also in Lenox and Hopkinton, in Massachusetts, are Churches erecting.”—“In Middlebury, it has pleased the Lord to pour out of His Spirit, and awaken many to righteousness. They also have it in serious contemplation, to erect a house to the worship of Almighty God, and it is earnestly commended to the friends of our communion, to assist them in a work which is so very important and interesting to our Church.”

“Most of the Churches also in this Diocese have I, since the last meeting of this Convention, visited once, and some of them twice or three times. But with deep regret it must be acknowledged that duties of a parish, and other causes, have hitherto rendered impracticable such frequent visitations, as the good of the Churches requires: and some especially of those most remote have been too long neglected.”

“Confirmation has been administered once, or more, in Bridgewater, Greenfield, Salem, Newburyport, Cambridge, Great-Barrington, Lenox, and Lanesborough, in Massachusetts; in Bristol, Rhode Island; and in Arlington and Middlebury, in Vermont. The whole number confirmed is but 194. It is expected soon, the Lord permitting, that there will be confirmations in some of our largest Churches. Though the number is small, there is reason to believe and there is much comfort in believing, that the few who have received confirmation, are truly pious, and such as will through divine grace, lead the rest of their life according to this beginning; and that a very considerable number more, of the like, description, are now ready to be confirmed. There is cause, however, still for repeating, what was observed before you at our last Convention, that we do not, so generally as we ought, avail ourselves of the practical benefits of this ordinance. The two Sacraments excepted, there is none which has been so blest among us, wherever it has been administered.”

“With lively gratitude to the Father of mercies, and the great Head of the Church, we are bound to acknowledge, that at no former period has the general state of religion, in this Diocese, been so vigorous and promising. In many places are small societies forming, or people desirous to form them; and a call for Clergymen and missionary labours is heard in almost every part.

But of these there is great deficiency. Frequently is the request made by Churches destitute, that ministers may be sent them; but we have none to send; nor can we, but in a small degree, avail ourselves of these favourable circumstances. It is painful, that there should be this famine of hearing the word of God, and no means be found to relieve it. How fervently, and without ceasing, ought we to pray the Lord of the harvest, that He will send labourers into it. Had we a competent number of such labourers, as the Lord himself sends, how gloriously would His work increase!" *Christian Journal*, vol. i, pp. 209—214. (July 1817.)

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### 1817.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Vermont met according to appointment at Middlebury on the fourth Tuesday in June 1817.

The following gentlemen were present as Members, viz.

The REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, The REV. STEPHEN BEACH.

MIDDLEBURY:

HORATIO SEYMOUR, DANIEL CHIPMAN.

VERGENNES:

DURAND ROBERTS, SAMUEL B. BOOTH.

RUTLAND:

WILLIAM FAY, JESSE GOVE.

ST. ALBANS:

ASAHEL SMITH.

WINDSOR:

THOMAS THOMAS.

SHELDON:

JOEL CLAP.

FAIRFIELD:

NATHAN LOBDELL.

SHELBURN and BURLINGTON.:

BELA CHITTENDEN.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was elected President and George Cleveland, Secretary.

The Rev. George Leonard and Mr. Daniel Henshaw, were, on motion, admitted to seats in the Convention.

Whereas it appears that several Churches in this State have sent more delegates than is permitted by the Constitution, on motion, it was resolved, That they be permitted to take their seats in the Convention.

The Rev. Stephen Beach presented the report of the Churches in Fairfield, Sheldon and St. Albans, which was read.

The Convention adjourned until Thursday next at 8 o'clock, A. M.

Thursday morning. The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Mr. Abijah Hawley from Fairfax appeared and was admitted to a seat in the Convention.

The following persons were elected the Standing Committee of the Diocese for the year ensuing, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach and the Hon. Daniel Chipman.

A Communication was then read from the Secretary of the General Convention relative to altering the time of holding the same from the third Tuesday in May to the first Tuesday in October in the year 1823, which was agreed to.

Voted, That a Committee of three be appointed to revise the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in this State, and report the same to the next Annual Convention.

Whereas there are several societies in this State, professing to be Episcopalians, which are not legally formed into Societies, agreeable to the Canons of the Church and the Laws of this State—

Resolved, therefore, That the Secretary of this Convention be directed to write to all the Societies in this State



and advise them, if they have not already done it, so to form themselves into Societies agreeable to the Laws of this State, stating to them at the same time, the importance thereof, and likewise to recommend to the Agents of the Society's Lands not to appropriate the avails of any such lands to such Societies until they are regularly and legally formed, and that such Societies be requested to forward to the next Annual Convention copies of their respective Articles of Association, together with a particular report of the situation of the several Churches, at least so far as relates to the number of Communicants and prospects, and a description of the Propagation Rights of land in their vicinities.

Resolved, That hereafter the Annual Convention of this Church shall be holden at such time and place as shall be determined upon by the next preceding Annual Convention, instead of the fourth Wednesday in June annually as now provided by the second Article of the Constitution ; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give at least two months notice of the time and place of holding such Convention by publication in one or more of the Newspapers printed in this State, or by written communications to the respective Churches.

Voted, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Rev. Stephen Beach for his Sermon delivered before this Convention.

Voted, That the next annual meeting of the Convention of this Diocese be holden at Windsor on the 22d day of May next.

The Convention adjourned, sine die.

GEORGE CLEVELAND, Secretary.

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To some persons, the following paper, the first Power of Attorney, executed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, December 5th, 1816, may possess some interest. It was received in Vermont in April 1817. As the lapse of time

and circumstances have required, the appointment of new and additional Agents and Attorneys, this form has been renewed and re-issued.

*“ To all people to whom these presents shall come: The Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, established at the City of London, in that part of the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, called England, send Greeting:*

Whereas his Excellency Benning Wentworth, Esq., and his Excellency John Wentworth, Esq., late Governors and Commanders in Chief in and over the late Province of New-Hampshire, now comprising the States of New-Hampshire and Vermont, did at divers times preceding the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Five, by and with the advice of the then Council of the then Province aforesaid respectively give and grant to the above named Society one original right or share of land in each and every of the following towns, plantations and townships, situate in the said late Province now in the State of Vermont aforesaid, to wit: Arlington, Andover alias Weston, Addison, Averill, Bridgewater, Barnard, Bridport, Brunswick, Burlington, Bromley alias Peru, Bolton, Brattleborough, Berlin, Barnet, Clarendon, Castleton, Cavendish, Cornwall, Charlotte, Colchester, Corinth, Dorset, Danby, Duxbury, Draper, Dunbar, Essex, Farlee, Ferdinand, Ferrisburgh, Fullum, Fairfax, Fairfield, Glastenbury, Guildhall, Granby, Guilford, Georgia, Hartford, Harwich alias Mount Tabor, Hinesburgh, Highgate, Hungerford alias Sheldon, Hubberton, Jericho, Killington alias Sherburne, Ludlow, Leicester, Lemington, Lewis, Lunenburgh, Manchester, Maidstone, Middlebury, Monkton, Minehead, Moretown, Middlesex, Milton, Mansfield, Norwich, New-Haven, New-Fane, New-Fairfield, Neshobe alias Brandon, New-Barnet, Newbury, New-Huntington, New-Marlborough, New-Stamford, Orwell, Pomfret, Pawlet, Poultney, Panton, Pocock alias Bristol, Putney, Pittsfield, Peacham, Rupert, Rutland, Rockingham, Reading, Ryegate, Saltash alias Plymouth, Stockbridge, Sunderland, Sandgate, Strafford, Sharon, Shaftsbury, Somerset, Shoreham, Salisbury, Stowe, St. Albans, Swanton, Shelburne, St. George, Smithfield, Sudbury, Springfield, Shrewsbury, Thetford, Tunbridge, Tinmouth, Townsend, Tomlinson, Topsham, Underhill, Windsor, Woodstock, Wil-

liston, Westford, Whiting, Westminster, Weathersfield, Winhall, Wells, Wenlock, Weybridge, Wallingford, Woodford, Waterbury, and Worcester.

*Now know ye*, that the said Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, have made, ordained, constituted and appointed, The Right Reverend Alexander Viets Griswold, D. D. of Bristol in the State of Rhode-Island in the United States of America, the Reverend Abraham Bronson of Arlington, the Reverend Silas Safford of Middlebury, Clerks, and the Honorable Daniel Chipman, Esquire of said Middlebury, and Anson Joseph Sperry, Esquire of Manchester, all in the State of Vermont in the United States aforesaid, their lawful Agents and Attorneys for and in the name of said Society, to ask, demand, sue for, appear, prosecute, have, recover, and receive possession of the aforesaid rights or shares of land, in the aforesaid towns, townships and plantations in said State of Vermont, granted to the said Society as aforesaid and not herein particularly specified, and for and in the name of said Society to lease, let, set or demise the aforesaid rights or shares of land, or any part or parts thereof, to such person or persons and for such term or number of years, and at or under such yearly or other rents as they or a majority of them shall think fit or proper; and also in the name and behalf of said Society to ask, demand, sue for, have, recover and receive all rents, incomes and profits which are or shall become due and owing to said Society or in any way arise out of or from the said rights or shares of land in any of the towns, townships and plantations as aforesaid to and for the uses and purposes following, to wit: There shall be appropriated such parts and shares of said rents, profits and monies of the said several rights, and shares of land as aforesaid as the Agents and Attorneys shall judge just and proper to the use and benefit of such persons as may be duly and canonically consecrated to the office of Bishop over said State of Vermont and to the use and benefit of his successors in the office of Bishop in said State; and the remaining income and profits of the aforesaid shares shall be appropriated to the use and support of a clergyman or clergymen and his or their successors of the Protestant Episcopal Church in each of the aforesaid towns, townships or plantations, when a Church shall be formed therein

and the worship of God performed according to the Liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and in the towns, townships and plantations aforesaid, where no Church is established as aforesaid, the said remaining income, rents and profits, shall be appropriated to the support of clergymen, building of Churches, defraying the expenses of suits for the recovery of said rights and shares of land and the income and profits thereof, and for such other use and purposes as the said Agents and Attorneys shall judge will best conduce to the welfare of the Church in the said State of Vermont; and to do all other acts and things, whatsoever that shall be necessary concerning the premises as fully and in every respect as the said Society can or could do: and one or more Attorneys under them for the purposes aforesaid to make and again at their pleasure revoke. And the said Society doth hereby ratify and confirm whatsoever their said Agents and Attorneys shall fully do or cause to be done in the premises in the name of said Society or otherwise by force of these presents.

Witness whereof the said Society have hereunto affixed their common seal at Lambeth Palace in the County of Surry, in that part of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, called England this 5th day of December A. D., 1816."

The foregoing paper, with others, was "put into the hands of Mr. Chipman, who took about two years for the examination of the case before commencing any process. Then he brought a suit for land in New-Haven, near Middlebury, which was defended by a grant of money from the State, and in March 1823, decided in the Supreme Court of the United States in favor of the Church." Bronson's Letters. Gambier Observer Nov. 14, 1834. Episcopal Recorder Feb. 28, 1835.



1818.

WINDSOR, May 22, 1818.

At a Meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont on the 22d day of May, 1818, at the Brick Meeting House in the town of Windsor, the following Clerical and Lay Delegates appeared, and, having produced satisfactory Credentials, took their seats, viz.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, *Arlington*.

The Rev. STEPHEN BEACH, Trinity Church, *Fairfield*.

The Rev. GEORGE T. CHAPMAN, Immanuel Church,  
*Bellows Falls*.

The Rev. GEORGE LEONARD, St. Paul's Church, *Windsor*.

HON. JONATHAN H. HUBBARD, " " "

Mr. JOEL CLAPP, Grace Church, *Sheldon*.

Mr. JAMES I. CUTLER, Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

Mr. SAMUEL A. WILKINS, Union Church, *St. Albans*.

The Convention was duly organized by the appointment of the Rev. Abraham Bronson, President, and the Rev. George T. Chapman, Secretary.

On motion the Convention adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service, to meet again at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. Mr. Beach, and a Sermon was delivered by the Rev. James Morss of Newburyport, Mass. Subsequently the Holy Eucharist was administered by the Rev. President.

Two o'clock, P. M. The Convention met and adjourned until 6 o'clock in the Evening, at the house of the Hon. J. H. Hubbard.

Six o'clock, P. M. The Convention assembled and proceeded to business.

On motion of the Rev. Stephen Beach, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Leonard, resolved, That the Rev. James Morss be admitted to the sittings of this Convention.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Beach, seconded by the Rev. President, resolved, That all gentlemen present, belonging to the Episcopal Church, be admitted to the sittings of this Convention.

On motion resolved, That the Agents of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts be requested to appoint an Agent, in each County in the State, to receive the voluntary surrender of the Lands belonging to said Society in their respective counties.

On motion, resolved, That the Standing Committee of this Diocese consist of five Members.

The Rev, Abraham Bronson, the Rev. George T. Chapman, the Rev. George Leonard, Edward R. Campbell, Esq. and the Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard, were then duly elected the Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

The Convention made choice of the following gentlemen to represent this Diocese in the Biennial Convention of the Eastern Diocese to be held at Greenfield, Mass. on the last Wednesday of September next, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. George T. Chapman, the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Rev. George Leonard, the Hon. William Hall, Mr. Joel Clapp, Doct. Erastus Torrey, and Col. Jesse Gove.

On motion resolved, That in case of the failure of either of the above Lay Delegates to attend the said Convention, the following persons be their respective Substitutes, to wit :

For the Hon. William Hall, Mr. James I. Cutler.

“ Mr. Joel Clapp, Mr. Jeremiah Stratton.

“ Dr. Erastus Torrey, Thomas Thomas, Esq.

“ Col. Jesse Gove, Mr. Noble Hard.

The following Parochial Reports were then read :—

From June, 1817, to May, 1818, at *Arlington*: Baptisms — adults 11, children 1; Marriages 7; Funerals 8; Communicants, 86.

At *Manchester*, during the same time: Baptisms—adults 8, children 2; Funerals 2; Communicants 37.

At *Middlebury*, during the same time: Baptisms, 9; Funerals, 1; Marriages, 1; Communicants, 30.

Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*, from December, 1815, to May, 1818: Baptisms—adults 6, children 22; Funerals, 3; Marriages, 4; Communicants, 11.

Trinity Church, *Rutland*, for the same time: Baptisms—adults 3, children 16.

On motion resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be requested to carry into effect a vote passed at the last Convention respecting the organization of the several Churches in the State.

On motion, resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be given to the Rev. James Morss for the excellent Discourse delivered by him at the opening of the same.

On motion resolved, That the Clerical and Lay Delegates who shall attend the next Diocesan Convention be a Committee to revise the Constitution and Canons of the Church in this State, and that the former Committee upon the subject be discharged.

On motion resolved, That the next Annual Convention of this Diocese be holden at Rutland on the fourth Wednesday of June, 1819.

The Rev. George T. Chapman was appointed to deliver the Sermon at the opening of the next Convention.

On motion resolved, That the Secretary be requested to return the thanks of this Convention to the Baptist Society in Windsor for the accommodation received in their place of Public Worship.

On motion resolved, That the Secretary be requested to return the thanks of this Convention to the Hon. and Rev. Charles Stewart of Canada for the extraordinary attention and zeal evinced by him in procuring a Power of Attorney from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in

Foreign Parts, established in London, Great Britain, to the Agents of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, so as to enable said Church to avail themselves of various tracts of land belonging to the above mentioned Society.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Beach, seconded by the Hon. Judge Hubbard, voted, That this Convention be adjourned, without day.

Attest, GEORGE T. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

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The following paragraphs are quoted from the Address of Bishop Griswold before the Biennial Convention of the Eastern Diocese held at Greenfield, Mass. September 30th, 1818. They contain matter of interest respecting the Church in Vermont.

Tuesday September 8th, 1818. "In Lanesborough, I was met by the Rev. Mr. Bronson. Wednesday the 9th, though the rain was violent, through the kindness of friends and the blessing of God, we reached Arlington in Vermont. On the way it was intended, had the weather been favorable to have preached in Bennington. In Arlington we found a people much alive to a sense of religion and much engaged in its duties. The Lord has there, during the present season awakened many to righteousness and added to His Church such, we hope, as shall be saved. Thursday the 10th, I preached and confirmed in each of the two Churches in that town, and in one of them administered the Holy Communion. Here we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hawley, of Washington, the present Chaplain of the Senate of the United States: he assisted in the services and preached a third Sermon."

"Friday the 11th, I visited in Manchester, another parish under the care of Mr. Bronson; preached twice and administered Confirmation and the Lord's Supper. In that place, the Lord's work in converting the hearts of His people and adding many to His Church, is also marvellous in our eyes. The pastor of these two Churches is much blessed in seeing such abundant fruit of his labours. The number of his Communicants has been nearly doubled in the last few months."



“The next day I pursued my journey to Rutland and preached on the way at Wallingford. The Episcopalians in Pawlet and Wells are under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Jewett: they attend public worship in the State of New-York and receive Confirmation in that Diocese. It was, therefore, not necessary that I should visit them.”

“Sunday the 13th, I was in Rutland and preached twice and confirmed a few. The congregation was large and attentive and appeared to be edified by the services. Very few of them had, before that day, seen a Confirmation. It is hoped that the solemnity will excite in others a desire to witness a like good confession. It is about two years since a number of respectable people in Rutland formed themselves into an Episcopal Society: they have been very desirous to obtain the permanent services of a settled minister, and have manifested a very laudable liberality in offering to subscribe for his maintenance. They have been disappointed and disheartened; but not, I was happy to find in such degree as report had given reason to apprehend.”

“In the course of Monday the 14th, I reached Middlebury, having officiated, on the way, at Salisbury, where I met with the Rev. Mr. Leonard, in a low state of health. He has since returned to Windsor; but much to his disappointment, he is unable to meet with us on this occasion. The Church in Middlebury is also destitute of a minister, and will not probably increase until it is again blessed with the wholesome ministrations of the Word and Sacraments. I preached there once only on the 15th, attending also to some other necessary things, and engaging, should the Lord permit, to visit them on my return.”

“Wednesday the 16th, I preached in Vergennes, where the Church is in a declining state, suffering as do many other parts of the Vineyard—the want of labourers. Could a clergyman have been continued in that place, the parish, no doubt, at the present time would have been large and flourishing. How earnestly should we pray the Lord to send Labourers into His Vineyard, and show the sincerity of our prayers by our works. Are we content with saying to these our suffering brethren, ‘be ye warmed and filled?’ At Vergennes I was happy in meeting the

Rev. Mr. Beach, who since has kindly accompanied me, and given me much assistance."

"On Thursday it rained much; but through the generous assistance of kind friends, we reached Burlington in the evening. At Shelburne, on our way, we had the no small pleasure of assembling with the remnant of a Church, formerly the flock of the Rev. Mr. Chittenden. Unfavourable as the weather was, a respectable congregation convened. Mr. Beach performed Divine Service and baptized an adult. I preached and administered Confirmation and the Lord's Supper. The people appeared to be much gratified and encouraged by this visit, and there is reason to hope that, through the Lord's blessing, it will be permanently beneficial."

"On Friday we reached St. Albans in season to unite with a pious people in the offices of Divine Worship. The Rev. Mr. Townsend, of Canada performed the evening service. I preached and administered Confirmation and the Eucharist. Our brethren among whom I officiated in that place and the towns adjoining, appeared highly to prize the privilege of those ordinances and by them to be edified."

"On Saturday we pursued our journey to Sheldon, where though the rains continued, we found a large and very religious congregation assembled—'all there present before God to hear all things that were commanded us by God.' There we had the pleasure of meeting with the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Stewart, who assisted in Divine Service. The people appeared to be uncommonly devout and attentive, and to 'receive with meekness the engrafted word.' I preached and confirmed forty-nine, whose hearts, we have no reason to doubt, the Lord has renewed. There, too, I received some communications from Berkshire, about fifteen miles east of Sheldon, and the pleasing information, that a new Episcopal Society has recently there been organized with very favourable prospects of success. My time had been so completely appropriated by previous arrangements that to visit this new parish was found to be impracticable."

"In the evening we reached Fairfield; and with devout gratitude to a kind protecting Providence ought I to acknowledge, that as on many occasions, so especially on this, my health received

no injury from being exposed to wet and cold, immediately after long speaking in a crowded assembly."

"At Fairfield on Sunday the 20th, we had an interesting day. Though the rain continued to fall incessantly and most of the people had several miles to travel, their new Church was filled at an early hour, with a large and very crowded assembly. The services were commenced by the solemn dedication of the house to the honour and worship of Almighty God. The Rev. Mr. Townsend performed Morning Prayer. The Rev. Mr. Beach administered Baptism. I preached and after Sermon confirmed forty-seven. After an intermission of thirty minutes, the Evening Service commenced: Prayers by Mr. Townsend. Mr. Beach was then instituted. Dr. Stewart delivered an excellent discourse; and after the Sermon, I administered the sacred Memorials of Christ's Body and Blood to one hundred and forty very devout Communicants. During the last three years the word preached has been very much blessed in Fairfield and Sheldon; and not a little in Berkshire and St. Albans; and their pious pastor is much encouraged and refreshed in seeing his labours so prospered, and one hundred and three pious converts of his flock present themselves for Confirmation."

"Monday the rain continued. By hard travelling we reached Burlington in season for Divine Service: Prayers by Mr. Beach who also baptized eight children. Tuesday by reason of continued rains, heavy travelling and an unpleasant accident, it was not without some difficulty that we reached Vergennes. Wednesday, I preached, confirmed and administered the Holy Communion in Middlebury. The two following days we passed over the Mountains to the eastern part of the State; arriving in Windsor in season for Prayers and a Sermon on Friday evening. In that place, since the last Biennial Convention, has been formed an Episcopal Parish, highly respectable for the number, character and liberal zeal of its members. The Rev. Mr. Leonard is their minister. Saturday morning, I preached again in Windsor."

"In the afternoon of Monday, we proceeded to Bellows Falls. There in Rockingham on the Vermont side is a Parish lately formed, which is already in a flourishing state under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Chapman. They have erected a neat and

commodious Church, which about a year since was consecrated. They have also an excellent Choir of singers; and in proportion to their abilities, no people of the Diocese have gone before them in liberal efforts for the regular and decent ministrations of the blessed Gospel. There also, I preached and administered Confirmation."

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1819.

RUTLAND, June 23d, 1819.

At a Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Vermont holden on the 23d day of June, 1819, at the Court House in Rutland, the following Clerical and Lay Delegates appeared, and, having produced satisfactory Credentials, took their seats as Members, viz.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,

The Rev. STEPHEN BEACH,

The Rev. GEORGE LEONARD,

The Rev. JOEL CLAPP.

Lay Delegates were present from the following Parishes :

RUTLAND:

JESSE GOVE.

ARLINGTON:

MARTIN WEBB.

ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON.

SANDGATE:

JORDAN GRAY.

MIDDLEBURY:

DORASTUS WORCESTER.

MANCHESTER:

JEREMIAH STRATTON.

SHELBURNE:

BELA CHITTENDEN.



FAIRFIELD:  
NATHAN LOBDELL.

CHARLOTTE:  
GIDEON PRINDLE.

SHELDON:  
JOSHUA BROOKS.

WINDSOR:  
JOSIAH DUNHAM.

The Convention then proceeded to organize by choosing the Rev. Abraham Bronson, President, and Josiah Dunham, Esq. Secretary.

Morning Prayer was said, a Sermon delivered by the Rev. George Leonard, and the Holy Communion was administered by the Rev. President.

The Convention adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Convention met according to adjournment.

The following Parochial Reports were then presented :

ARLINGTON.

Baptisms (adults 6, children 3) — 9; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 94.

MANCHESTER.

Baptisms (adults 9, children 5) — 14; Marriages, 1; Funerals 4; Communicants, 51.

SANDGATE.

Communicants, 11.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

Baptisms, 13; Funerals, 1; Marriages, 6; Communicants, 74.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

Baptisms, 8; Funerals, 2; Marriages, 3; Communicants, 53.

## UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

Funerals, 2; Communicants, 12.

## MONTGOMERY.

Baptisms (adults 7, children 33)—40; Funerals, 4; Communicants, 15.

## BERKSHIRE.

Baptisms, 9; Funerals 2; Communicants, 6.

## SHELBURNE.

Baptisms (adult 1, infants 2)—3; Communicants, 18.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

Baptisms, 6; in Cornish, N. H. 3; Marriages, 2; Communicants, 35.

## TOTAL.

Baptisms, 105, Funerals, 18, Marriages, 14, Communicants, 362.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the choice of a Standing Committee, for the year ensuing, when the Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach and the Rev. George Leonard were unanimously chosen.

On motion, the following Resolution was read and adopted, viz.

Resolved, That the Senior Warden of each Church in this Diocese shall be requested to consider it his immediate duty to circulate a Subscription Paper in his Parish, or cause it to be done effectively, for the purpose of raising money to meet any expenses incurred, or that may be incurred hereafter, in obtaining the charter of the Society Lands, in this State, and in prosecuting any suit for the recovery and possession of the same; and, also, to make report of the sum raised without delay to the Hon. Daniel Chipman, the acting Agent in the case of said Lands.

On motion, the following Resolution was read and adopted :

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to receive and apply any donations that may be made for Missionary, or other purposes, to further the interests of the Church in this Diocese.

The following gentlemen were appointed such a committee, viz. The Rev. Stephen Beach, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Joel Clap, Daniel Henshaw, Esq., Alvin Leicester, Esq., Wm. Hall, Esq.

On motion the following gentlemen were chosen Deputies to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, to be holden at Philadelphia on the 3d Tuesday in May next, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Joel Clap, Clement Trowbridge, Esq., Josiah Dunham, Esq., Daniel Henshaw, Esq. and Jeremiah Stratton, Esq.

On motion, resolved, That in case any of the Deputies, now chosen to the General Convention, should be unable to attend, he is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a Substitute, vested with the same powers as those now appointed by this Convention.

On motion, voted, That the thanks of this Convention be given to the Rev. George Leonard for his Sermon this day delivered before the Convention.

The Convention adjourned until Evening.

Evening. The Convention met according to adjournment.

On motion, voted, That the Rev. George Leonard and Josiah Dunham be a Committee to revise the Constitution and Canons of the Church in this Diocese, and report at the next annual Convention.

On motion, voted, That the next annual Convention of this Diocese be holden at Shelburne.

On motion, voted, That this Convention do now adjourn, sine die, and it was adjourned accordingly.

Attest, JOSIAH DUNHAM, Secretary.

In the early part of 1819, a suit was brought in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Vermont against the town of New-Haven and William Wheeler to recover possession of the land in that township, granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, by the Hon. Daniel Chipman, acting in behalf of the Agents and Attorneys of that Society. In this Suit the State appeared as the Defendant. During the Session of the Legislature in the Fall of 1819, the following Act was passed, "appointing an Agent to defend a lawsuit therein mentioned."

"Sec. 1. *It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont*, that David Edmond of Vergennes, in the county of Addison be, and hereby is appointed an Agent, at the expense of this State, to defend a suit now pending in the Circuit Court of the United States for the Vermont District, in favor of the incorporated society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, against the town of New-Haven, and one William Wheeler, for the recovery of one of the rights, or a part of a right, of land, originally granted by the government of Great Britain to said Society.

Sec. 2. *It is hereby further enacted* that the Agent shall have full power and authority to employ assistant counsel, and defend, to final judgment the said suit, and in case of recovery in the Circuit Court, in favor of the Society, the Agent is authorized in his discretion, to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, and take such measures as to procure the opinion of the court thereon. And the Auditor of accounts against the State, is hereby authorized and directed to audit and allow the account of the Agent, and draw orders on the Treasurer of this State, who is hereby directed to pay the same, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

*Provided, however*, that nothing contained in this act shall be construed as creating, or recognizing, any liability whatever, on the part of the State, to the town of New-Haven; or to any other town, or to any person or persons whatsoever, to secure or defend the title or possession of the right of land above mentioned, or of any right of land of the same description in any other town except so far as is above provided in relation to the expenses of the said suit;—and

*Provided also*, that the State shall not be liable to pay a sum exceeding Six Hundred Dollars towards the expenses of said suit. Passed Nov. 13, 1819."

Laws passed by the Legislature of Vermont, 1819, pp. 40, 41.



1820.

SHELBURNE, June 28th, 1820.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Vermont met agreeably to appointment.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. Stephen Beach, a Sermon was delivered by the Rev. Abraham Bronson, and the Holy Communion administered by the Rev. Mr. Beach.

The following gentlemen were present as Members and Delegates, viz.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,  
The Rev. STEPHEN BEACH,  
The Rev. JOEL CLAP.

SANDGATE:

JORDAN GRAY.

BERKSHIRE:

AMHERST WILLOUGHBY.

ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON.

CHARLOTTE:

JOHN COBB.

ARLINGTON:

DANIEL B. TUTHILL.

SHELDON:

CHARLES B. WESSON.

VERGENNES:

SAMUEL H. TUPPER.

FAIRFIELD:

NATHAN LOBDELL,

JOHN HENDRICK.

MONTGOMERY:

RUFUS SMITH.

MIDDLEBURY:

DORASTUS WOOSTER.

SHELBURNE:

HEMAN CHITTENDEN.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen President, Josiah Dunham, Esq. Secretary and the Rev. Joel Clap assistant Secretary.

The Convention then adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M.

Four o'clock, P. M. The Convention assembled agreeably to adjournment.

On motion of the Rev. Stephen Beach, resolved, That all members of the Episcopal Church present, desiring to sit with us, be admitted to seats in this Convention.

The Parochial Reports were then called for and read as follows, viz.

#### MANCHESTER.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 2; Marriages, 1; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 52.

#### ARLINGTON.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 1, children 1) — 2; Funerals, 10; Communicants, 92.

#### SANDGATE.

JORDAN GRAY, LAY READER.

Baptisms, 16; Communicants, 25.

#### TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 7, children 7) — 14; Marriages, 5; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 64.

#### GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 8; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 6; Communicants, 49.

#### UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 7; Funerals, 1; Communicants, 12.

## BERKSHIRE AND VICINITY.

THE REV. JOEL CLAP, MINISTER.

Baptisms (adults 1, children 6)—7; Communicants, 7.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

THE REV. JOEL CLAP, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 2; Communicants, 17; Sunday School Scholars, 15 to 20.

## TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE.

THE REV. JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 2, children 7)—9; Funerals, 8; Communicants, 33; Sunday School Scholars, from 70 to 80.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

THE REV. GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

The Rev. Mr. Leonard writes there have been some confirmed, some additions to the Communicants, two Burials, one Marriage, and one Baptism of an Infant.

## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

ALFRED L. BAURY, LAY READER.

Baptisms, 37; Confirmed, 52; Communicants, 65; Marriages, 1; Burials, 4; Sunday School Scholars, from 40 to 50.

## TOTAL.

Baptisms, 99; Deaths, 35; Communicants, 391.

On motion of the Rev. Joel Clap, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to revise the Constitution of the Church in this Diocese, and report this evening.

The following gentlemen were appointed such a Committee, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach, Daniel Henshaw, Esq. and Dorastus Wooster, Esq.

On motion of the Rev. Joel Clap, resolved, That a Committee be appointed to devise and report to this Convention

the most efficient method of raising money to repay the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Stewart the money he long since advanced to procure a Power of Attorney from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and to defray the expenses of a suit now pending for the recovery of the Lands of that Society in this State.

The following gentlemen were elected : John Chipman, Esq., Mr. Jordan Gray, Clement Trowbridge, Esq., Amherst Willoughby, Esq. and Samuel H. Tupper, Esq.

On motion of the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Convention adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Evening Prayer was read by the Rev. Joel Clap, and a Sermon was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, of Ogdensburgh, N. Y.

Immediately after the close of the Evening Service, the Convention again met.

On motion voted, That the Hon. Daniel Chipman be added to the Committee last appointed.

The Convention adjourned until to-morrow Morning at 5 o'clock.

Thursday, June 29th. The Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

The Rev. Mr. Bronson, in behalf of the Committee appointed to revise the Constitution, reported, That it is expedient to adopt the following revised Constitution, viz.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CONVENTION OF THE PROTESTANT  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT.

ART. I. The various Churches in Vermont shall be considered as united in one Convention in subordination to the General Convention of the United States.

ART. II. The said Convention shall meet annually on *the fourth Wednesday in June*, at such place as shall be appointed at a previous meeting ; and all Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, residing in this State, shall be entitled to seats in Convention ; and Lay Delegates from



the several Churches in this State shall be entitled to seats in the said Convention, in the following proportion, to wit: Each Church shall have the privilege of sending at least one member; if it consists of ten or more Communicants, then it may send two members, and for every twenty-five Communicants, excepting the numbers above specified, the said Churches shall be entitled to one additional member.

ART. III. The Convention shall deliberate and act in one body; but shall vote in distinct orders, when any member shall call for such a division on any one question; and in such case a concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary to constitute a vote.

ART. IV. A President, Secretary and Standing Committee shall be chosen at every Annual Meeting of the Convention; and when there is to be a Session of the General Convention within the ensuing year, the requisite delegation shall be appointed to represent this State in that body; also as long as this State shall belong to the Eastern Diocese, a delegation shall be appointed to attend each Diocesan Convention at the next preceding Annual Convention, or at some meeting specially warned for that purpose. Provided, however, that no person shall be a Member of the Standing Committee, or shall represent this State in the General or Diocesan Convention, unless he be a regular Communicant in the Church. Provided, also, that when the Bishop of the Diocese shall be present in Convention, he shall, *ex officio*, be President. The Convention may from time to time, if deemed expedient, appoint a Prudential Committee to superintend the prudential concerns of the Church.

ART. V. If at any time a Bishop is to be elected by this Convention, the Secretary, by order of the President, or Standing Committee, shall write to the Minister or one of the Wardens of each Church, at least six weeks before the election is to take place, and give notice of the time

and place appointed for such election, and request, that Delegates may attend the Convention for the purpose ; and, in every such election, the Convention shall vote in distinct orders—the Clerical order shall make a nomination by ballot, and a majority of the Lay Delegates shall approve the appointment, before the person shall be considered elected.

ART. VI. No alteration shall be made in this Constitution except in Annual Convention ; nor unless proposed and reduced to writing at a previous Convention.

ART. VII. The Bishop or Standing Committee shall have power to call a special Convention, by giving six weeks previous notice to the Minister or one of the Wardens of each particular Church.

The foregoing Report was accepted, and, on motion of Mr. Wooster it was resolved, That the revised Constitution, as above reported by the Committee appointed for that purpose, be adopted as the Constitution of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont.

The Convention proceeded to the appointment of the Standing Committee. The following gentlemen were elected, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Rev. Joel Clap, the Rev. George Leonard, and the Rev. Carlton Chase.

The following gentlemen were appointed Delegates to represent the Church in this State in the Diocesan Convention to be holden at Newport, R. I. on the last Wednesday of September next, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Rev. George Leonard, and the Rev. Joel Clap. — Clement Trowbridge, Esq., Daniel Chipman, Esq., Josiah Dunham, Esq. and Mr. Alfred L. Baury.

The Rev. Carlton Chase was appointed as a Substitute for any one of the Clerical Delegates, who should be unable to attend said Convention.

The following gentlemen were appointed Substitutes for the Lay Delegates above named, viz. Jeremiah Stratton, Dr. Dana Hyde, Col. John Chipman, Col. Jesse Lull.

Col. John Chipman, in behalf of the Committee appointed to devise the most efficient method of raising money to repay Dr. Stewart, etc. submitted the following report :

TO THE CONVENTION OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH NOW SITTING :

Your Committee appointed to devise and report to the Convention the most efficient method of raising money to repay the Hon. and Rev. Charles Stewart, D. D. the money which he long since advanced to procure a Power of Attorney from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and to raise a sum sufficient to defray the expense of a suit now pending for the recovery of the Lands of said Society in this State, respectfully report, That the several Episcopal Churches and Societies in this State be called on to raise each the sums hereafter mentioned as soon as may be, and forward the same to Daniel Chipman, Esq.—taking his receipt therefor, to wit :

Arlington, . . . . .	\$ 20.00
Sandgate, . . . . .	8.00
Manchester, . . . . .	10.00
Pawlet and Wells, . . . . .	10.00
Rutland, . . . . .	20.00
Middlebury, . . . . .	20.00
Vergennes, . . . . .	8.00
Charlotte, . . . . .	20.00
Shelburne, . . . . .	20.00
Burlington, . . . . .	8.00
Fairfield and other towns in Franklin County, . . . . .	30.00
Guilford, . . . . .	20.00
Rockingham, . . . . .	20.00
Windsor and Hartland, . . . . .	30.00
	<hr/>
	\$244.00 ;

that, in case there be a recovery in the aforesaid suit, the money so advanced, may be repaid with interest out of the avails of the Lands thus recovered.

JOHN CHIPMAN, for Committee.

Shelburne, June 29, 1820.

The above Report was accepted and adopted.

The following gentlemen were appointed a Prudential Committee to superintend the temporalities of the Church viz. John Phelps, Esq., Horace Everett, Esq., Col. Jesse Gove, Amherst Willoughby, Esq., Hon. Ezra Meach, George Cleveland, Esq.

Voted, that the Prudential Committee be directed to procure a written opinion of the Hon. Nathaniel Chipman, relative to the suit now pending before the Federal Court of the United States for the recovery of the Society Lands, so called, in New-Haven for the benefit of the Counsel employed in behalf of the Church in said suit.

Resolved, That the *first* Canon of the Church in this State be repealed, and that the following be adopted instead thereof, viz.

OF THE MODE OF TRYING CLERGYMEN ACCUSED OF MISDEMEANOR.

Whenever the Standing Committee shall have reason to suspect a Clergyman of this Church to be guilty of infidelity, heresy, vice or irregularity of any kind, it shall be their duty to inquire into the circumstances of the case; and if upon investigation they consider the crime worthy of notice, they shall report thereupon to the Bishop, who may summon a council of the Clergy, not less than three; a copy of the charge, and due notice of the time and place of trial being likewise communicated to the party accused; and after a full and fair investigation of the subject, the Bishop may pronounce sentence in the case. And if any Minister, degraded agreeable to this Canon, shall consider himself aggrieved, he shall be allowed an appeal to the House of Bishops.



Voted, That the next Annual Meeting of this Convention be holden in Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls.

The Rev. Joel Clap was appointed to preach the Sermon at the opening of the next Convention.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, sine die.

Attest, J. DUNHAM, Secretary.

JOEL CLAP, Assistant Secretary.

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The following passages from the address of Bishop Griswold to the Biennial Convention of the Eastern Diocese assembled at Newport R. I. Sept. 27. 1820, are here appropriate and important.

“REVEREND BRETHREN AND RESPECTED FRIENDS :

I address you under some circumstances of peculiar disadvantage; and the pleasure of meeting you again, on this interesting occasion, is mingled with regret, that in the discharge of this duty I cannot equal your just expectations. The infirm state of my health, during the nine months last past, has necessarily occasioned some deficiency in the performance of Episcopal duties. Early in August, a tour was commenced with the intention of visiting the northern parts of the Diocese; but for particular reasons, respecting the Churches in Vermont, I was requested to postpone my visit to that State till the next Spring. It is now more than twelve months since I have been desirous of visiting the Churches in the eastern parts; but it has been judged expedient to delay this journey also, until the new Church, now nearly finished in Gardner, in the State of Maine should be ready for consecration.”

“On the Friday next following the day of our last Biennial Convention in Greenfield, Joel Clap was ordained Deacon. The Sunday after I passed in Guilford, in Vermont. A number of people, actuated by a laudable zeal for promoting God’s holy worship, had erected a neat and very convenient edifice, in which I was invited that day to officiate. The congregation was respectable, and very attentive; and though there were then no Episcopalians in that town, a number of the principal people expressed a desire to become acquainted with the doctrines and worship of our Church; and invited Mr. Baury, a student in theology, and since

a candidate for Holy Orders, to perform Divine Service for a few weeks in their church. Mr. Baury, who has continued with them to the present time, has devoted himself, with great diligence and pious zeal, to all the duties allowed to those who are not ordained to the ministry; and his labors have been remarkably blessed."

"On the 18th of November, I was present at the State Convention of Massachusetts, which met in Salem. Confirmation was administered; and the Rev. Calvin Wolcott, Deacon, was admitted to the Order of Presbyters. And on the 19th of December following, at Bristol, in Rhode Island, Carlton Chase and Patrick H. Folker, were ordained Deacons.

"Early in the next year I again visited Guilford, in Vermont, being invited by the proprietors of the new church, and others, who had formed themselves into a society: and on the 18th of February, 1819, the house, by their unanimous request, was dedicated, according to the Canons and Usage of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Twenty-one persons, including some children, were baptized. Thirty-two received confirmation, apparently with a very deep sense of the nature and solemnity of the ordinance. The next day I preached in the Congregational meeting-house, about four miles from the Church, and near the center of the town. And on Sunday, the 21st, again officiated in the Church, baptized four adults and five children, confirmed eleven more, and administered the Lord's Supper to forty-two, very devout communicants; of whom about thirty, then for the first time, received that Sacrament. On no occasion have I ever witnessed more pleasing evidence of sincere piety and religious reverence; or felt more sensibly the presence and goodness of God, who, in His great mercy, as there is reason to believe, was pleased to bless that visitation to the comfort and edification of His people. In August of the same year, I made a third visit to that parish: on the 20th preached and administered baptism in the meeting-house; and on the 21st preached in the Church, baptized three adults and two children, confirmed nine persons, and gave the Communion to about forty-five. Another society has, for convenience, been organized in that town, and Divine Service is performed alternately in the meeting-house, and in the Church: and on every Lord's Day a third service is held in the latter place."

"At an ordination held in Providence September 2d, 1819, Patrick H. Folker and George Taft, Deacons, were admitted to the order of Priests : and Addison Searl, Jasper Adams, and Edward Lippitt, were ordained Deacons."

"From Providence, I proceeded to Boston, and on the fourth assisted in the interesting ceremony of laying the corner stone of a new Church in that town. The next day, being Sunday, I officiated in Dedham ; and on Monday proceeded on a tour which extended through New Hampshire and a part of Vermont. In the course of it, on the 15th, I assisted in the Institution of the Rev. James B. Howe into the Parish of Union Church in Claremont, and administered Confirmation and the Lord's Supper. The next day we had Divine Service and Confirmation in the morning at Cornish : and in the afternoon prayers and a sermon at Windsor, in Vermont. On the 17th, in Windsor, assisted by my Reverend brethren, Abraham Bronson, James B. Howe, George Leonard and Titus Strong, I gave Priests Orders to the Reverend Joel Clap, and to Rhodolphus Dickenson the order of Deacon. Confirmation was administered, and the Communion of course given. The audience appeared deeply interested in the solemnities, and I have rarely known the services of our Church, of ordination especially, effect, in a congregation, a more serious impression. It is sufficient to observe, that with some few exceptions, when others perform the duty, my general practice is to preach in the Churches visited. In this tour I visited sixteen parishes."

"From January to May of the present year—1820—I was visited with sickness, and able to perform but few official duties. The people of my parish in Bristol, without curtailing the stipend allowed me, generously engaged the Rev. Mr. Taft to aid in the ministry ; and he still continues my assistant."

"June the 30th, assisted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Brownell, of Connecticut, and several Clergymen from various parts, I consecrated St. Paul's Church in Boston. The erection of that elegant edifice, by the very liberal exertions of a few respectable individuals ; the chaste style of its architecture ; the particulars of its dedication, and the Institution of the Rev. Samuel F. Jarvis, D. D. the following week, are things so generally known in the Diocese, that it is unnecessary now to repeat them. But it is highly

fitting and very much our duty to render united and unfeigned thanks to the Father of mercies for an acquisition so valuable to our Churches, and to our Clerical body."

"Besides the Institutions already noticed, the Rev. Mr. Ten Broeck has been inducted into the parish in Portland; the Rev. Joel Clap into the Church in Shelburne, Vermont; and the Rev. George Leonard into the Church in Cornish, New-Hampshire."

"At an ordination holden in Providence on the 4th of August last, the Rev. Jasper Adams and the Rev. Lemuel Burge were ordained Presbyters. Also in Bristol, on the 9th day of the present month, the Rev. Addison Searle, Deacon, was admitted to the order of Priesthood. The whole number ordained Presbyters, since you last convened, including the Rev. Mr. Chase this day admitted to that holy order, is nine. Eleven have been ordained Deacons, three hundred and twenty-four persons have been confirmed: six only have been received as Candidates for holy orders, to wit: Alfred L. Baur, Stephen H. Tyng, Henry C. Knight, Samuel B. Shaw, Joseph Muensch and Jordan Gray. The total number of Candidates at present on the list is eleven."

"The Rev. James Nichols, having by his letter, dated at Manchester, in Vermont, July 2d, A. D. 1819, declared his resolution to renounce the Ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and in future not to exercise any of its functions: in consequence, agreeably to the provisions of the 2d Canon of the General Convention of 1817, he, the said James Nichols, on the 2d day of September, 1819, in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Crocker and other Clergymen, was declared to be, and is suspended from his grade of the Ministry in said Church."

"Since our last Biennial Convention, the district of Maine has become a State, and now holds a respectable rank in the union which forms this rising empire. It became proper of course, and was judged expedient, that the few Churches in this new State should form a state Convention. Accordingly a meeting of Delegates, from the two Churches in Maine, took place in Brunswick, on the 3d of May in the present year. They acceded to the Constitution of the General Convention and formed a Constitution for that State. Their Delegates, sent to the last General Convention, were received, and their proceedings recognized and



approved; and agreeably to their request, they are annexed to this Eastern Diocese. Whether any and what alteration in our Diocesan Constitution may in consequence be necessary, will claim a place in your deliberations."

"The Church in Maine, though small, is a just subject of gratulation and praise. Three years ago we had but about twelve Communicants in that district; there are now about one hundred. Most laudable have been their efforts and liberality in making provision for the decent performance of Divine Worship, and the regular administration of the Christian Ordinances. In Gardner they have erected a new and very handsome Church, excelling, in the purity of taste displayed, and perfection of the Gothic style, any edifice perhaps in the United States. If the Lord permit, it will soon be solemnly dedicated to His holy worship. The parish in Portland are second to none in their pious liberality: 'for to their power,—I bear record—yea, and beyond their power they are willing,'—and generously endeavour to render the situation of their worthy pastor comfortable and happy. I have supposed it my duty to give them some little aid from our Easter contributions. They have obtained a bell for their Church. May the Lord remember them for good, and visit them with His salvation."

"The Church in New-Hampshire has not materially changed from the state reported at your last Convention. The Rev. Daniel Barber has left the Diocese, and also, it is reported, the communion of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The Rev. Mr. Howe has succeeded him in the Church in Claremont, where his labours are much blessed."

"In no part of this Diocese is the change for the better, during the last two years, more apparent, than in Vermont; though even there, but little, we fear of what we ought to do, has been effected. Mr. Chase has succeeded Mr. Chapman at Bellows Falls. The Church in Shelburne, under the care of Mr. Clap, has very much increased. New parishes might easily be formed, had we missionaries to feed them with the Bread of Life, and rear them up to strength and maturity. Some promising young men, in that State, are now prosecuting their studies, with a view to the sacred ministry. In Manchester a new Church is now in building; and another in Windsor. In February next, it is expected that the

very important law question, respecting their Church Lands will be decided."

"The sums collected at our Easter contributions I have endeavored, with the advice of our Standing Committee, to apply to the purposes intended, with the utmost frugality, and according to the best of my judgment. This fund is annually diminishing. The collections of the present year are from a few churches only, and amount to about two hundred and forty dollars. The greater part of our Churches have no such contributions. Whether you will judge it expedient and just, still to call on those few, seeing it is not made, as our Convention recommended, a general thing, may be worthy of consideration. The apology, which is usually made, for not asking the people to contribute is, that the parishes are poor, and their burdens already heavy; facts which we well know, and sensibly feel. But this excuse, as I conceive, is founded on a misapprehension of what is required. It is not enjoined upon any parish or individual to contribute anything but what can be given with convenience, and with a willing mind. It is required only that our people may all have a suitable *opportunity* to give. In the poorest parish there may be a few persons who are able, and willing, and desirous, to contribute something to this most important and charitable object."

"We know well that among Christians of other denominations, handsome collections are made in parishes much poorer than some of ours who contribute nothing; and we know too that many of our people contribute to the propagation of the Gospel by other sects, who would more gladly give, if, with even less importunity, they were called on by the clergy of our own communion. Should it by any be said that the sum like to be collected will be so small they are ashamed to present it, let such reflect on the impiety of thus dishonouring our Divine Master, and neglecting His work, through fear of bringing discredit upon ourselves! Is it thus we take His Cross, and bear His reproach? Permit me, my clerical brethren, to ask, whether *we* are not the chief delinquents in this thing! — *we* who ought to lead in every measure which will spread the faith of the blessed Saviour, and build up His kingdom. Are not the people more ready to give for this noble purpose than we to ask? Are we duly mindful of our Lord's command, doing all in our power to preach His Gospel to *every creature*?"

"It was resolved by the last General Convention to establish an Institution, to be designated, 'The Protestant Episcopal Missionary Society in the United States, for Foreign and Domestick Missions.' This Institution, in my judgment, is much to the honour of the General Convention; and ought, by every Diocese, and every friend of our Church, to be encouraged."

"Let us also be careful to manifest a spirit of candour, charity, and Christian love. The best evidence that we are Christians, is our loving those who love our Lord Jesus. We had never surely more occasion for the exercise of forbearance. Though we are reviled, let us revile not again; but, as much as lieth in us, live peaceably with all men."

"That He, who alone is able, will give us success; that the business of this Convention may be conducted with harmony and wisdom; and our hearts and lives be devoted to the building up of the Redeemer's Kingdom, is my humble prayer." Gospel Advocate, vol. i, pp. 9—18. Boston, Jan. 1821.

It was proposed at this Convention of the Eastern Diocese, in 1820, so to amend the Constitution, as to admit Maine, and to have an Annual Meeting of the Convention to be composed of all the Clergy in the Diocese and a Lay Delegate from each Church. Gospel Advocate, vol. ii, p. 357.

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In the Fall of this year, the Legislature passed the following "Act appropriating a sum of money for the purpose therein mentioned."

*"It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, that the sum of three hundred dollars be, and hereby is appropriated for the defence of a suit in favor of the society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts against the town of New-Haven and William Wheeler, now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, in addition to the monies heretofore appropriated, for that purpose; and the Treasurer of this State is hereby directed to pay the same, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the order of David Edmond of Vergennes, in the county of Addison, Agent of the State for the defence of said suit. Passed Nov. 16, 1820."* Acts of the Legislature of Vermont 1820, p. 32.

1821.

BELLOWS FALLS, June 27th, 1821.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont met according to appointment in Immanuel Church Bellows Falls at half past 8 o'clock, A. M.  
Present :

The Rt. Rev. ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD, President.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,

The Rev. GEORGE LEONARD,

The Rev. CARLTON CHASE,

The Rev. JOEL CLAP,

The Rev. ALFRED L. BAURY.

The following Delegates presented their Credentials and took their seats, viz.

CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD:

DANA HYDE, M. D.,                      JOHN PHELPS, Esq.,  
GUY BRIDGEMAN.

IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS:

ALEXANDER FLEMING, Esq.

SANDGATE:

Mr. JORDAN GRAY.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE:

JOSHUA ISHAM, Esq.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

Mr. CAROLUS C. BRAINARD.

The Rev. Joel Clap was appointed Secretary.

On motion by the Rev. George Leonard, Resolved, That Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church who may be in this vicinity during the Session of this Convention who are not members of the same, be invited to seats in Convention.

Agreeably to the above resolution the Rev. Titus Strong, Rector of St. James' Church, Greenfield, appeared and took his seat.



In conformity to the 45th Canon of the General Convention, the following Parochial Reports were presented and read, to wit :—

BETHEL AND BETHESDA CHURCHES, ARLINGTON.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Marriages, 1; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 92.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 1; Marriages, 1; Communicants, 52.

IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

THE REV. CARLTON CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 10; Marriages, 4; Deaths, 4; Communicants, 20.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

THE REV. GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 7; Marriages, 3; Burials, 5; Communicants, from 35 to 40.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

THE REV. GEORGE LEONARD, MINISTER.

Baptisms 9; Marriages, 1; Confirmed, 34; Communicants, 50.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 7; Burials, 5; Communicants, 66; Sunday School Scholars, 20. This Church has suffered a great loss the last year in the death of Mr. Anson Bradley.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, RECTOR.

Baptisms 7; Marriages 1; Funerals 2; Communicants, 51; Sunday School Scholars, 15.

## UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 3; Funerals, 1; Confirmed, 4; Communicants, 17.

## TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE.

THE REV. JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 2, infants 11) — 13; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 40.

## BERKSHIRE.

THE REV. JOEL CLAP, MINISTER.

Baptisms (adults 12, infants 7) — 19; Marriages, 1; Communicants, 39.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

THE REV. JOEL CLAP, MINISTER.

Baptisms (adults 4, infants 5) — 9; Communicants, 24.

## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

THE REV. ALFRED L. BAURY, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 14; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 4; Communicants, 75; Sunday School Scholars, from 50 to 60.

## SANDGATE.

MR. JORDAN GRAY, LAY READER.

Baptisms, 2; Burials, 5; Communicants, 28.

## RECAPITULATION.

Churches reported, 13; Baptisms, 101; Marriages, 14; Burials, 32; Communicants, 592.

Mr. Jeremiah Stratton, Zion Church, Manchester, and Noble Hard, Bethel Church, Arlington, presented their Credentials and were admitted to seats in the Convention.

The Record of the Proceedings of the last Convention was then read.

On motion, resolved, That this Convention now proceed to the choice of a Standing Committee. The following gentlemen were duly elected, viz. The Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Carlton Chase, the Rev. Joel Clap.

The following gentlemen were elected Delegates to the Diocesan Convention for the year ensuing, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Carlton Chase, the Rev. Stephen Beach, and the Rev. Joel Clap—Clerical. George Cleveland, Esq., Joshua Isham, Esq., Dana Hyde, M. D. and Alexander Fleming, Esq.—Lay.

The following Deputies to the General Convention were duly chosen, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Carlton Chase, and the Rev. Joel Clap—Clerical. The Hon. J. H. Hubbard, Joshua Isham, Esq., Clement Trowbridge, Esq. and Alexander Fleming, Esq.—Lay.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Bronson, resolved, That in case either or any of the above mentioned Delegates or Deputies should not be able to attend the Conventions to which they are chosen, they shall have power to appoint Substitutes, subject to the Constitutional provision.

The following gentlemen were appointed a Prudential Committee for the year ensuing, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, John Phelps, Esq., Hon. J. H. Hubbard, Hon. Daniel Chipman and George Cleveland, Esq.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the expediency of establishing a Missionary Society in this State. The following gentlemen were appointed said Committee, viz. The Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Carlton Chase, the Rev. Alfred L. Baury, Dana Hyde, M. D., Joshua Isham, Esq.

On motion, resolved, That a Committee consisting of three Clergymen and two Laymen, be appointed to consult with the Rt. Rev. the Bishop, and report this evening whether any, and if any, what measures, it is expedient to

adopt relative to the discipline of the Church. Whereupon the following Committee was appointed, viz. The Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Joel Clap, Mr. Guy Bridgeman and Mr. Noble Hard.

Resolved, That this Convention will attend Divine Service this Evening at 4 o'clock.

The Convention then adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. Joel Clap. An appropriate Sermon was delivered by the Right Reverend, the Bishop, who, also, administered the Holy Communion. The Convention then proceeded to business.

Martin Robberts, Esq., a Delegate from Zion Church Manchester, presented his Credentials and took his seat in Convention.

The Convention adjourned until 3 o'clock P. M.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The Rev. George Leonard on behalf of the Committee appointed to consult with the Rt. Rev. the Bishop and report this evening whether any, and if any, what measures, it is expedient to adopt relative to the discipline of the Church ; made the following report :

Your Committee have not found it expedient, at this time, to recommend any measures to be adopted relative to the discipline of the Church, and beg to be excused from any further consideration of the subject.

The Report was accepted and the Committee discharged.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the expediency of establishing a Missionary Society in this Diocese made the following report :—

TO THE CONVENTION OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH NOW SITTING :

The Committee to whom was referred the question of the expediency of establishing a Missionary Society in this



Diocese, beg leave to report, That it is their unanimous opinion measures should be taken, before the rising of this Convention, to effect an object so desirable.

ALFRED L. BAURY, Chairman.

Bellows Falls, June 27. 1821.

The foregoing report was accepted, and, on motion, the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to draw up a Constitution of a Missionary Society, viz. The Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Alfred L. Baurý and Joshua Isham, Esq.

The Convention adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Evening Prayer was read by the Rev. Titus Strong, Rector of St. James' Church, Greenfield, Mass., and a Sermon was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Baldwin of the Diocese of New York.

Immediately after Service, the Convention proceeded to business.

The Committee, appointed to draw up a Constitution for the Missionary Society, reported the following form :

### CONSTITUTION

OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
IN VERMONT.

ART. I. This society shall be known by the name of the Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont.

ART. II. There shall be an Annual Meeting of this Society on the day following the stated annual meeting of the Convention of Vermont at the place where the said Convention is held.

ART. III. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Board of Managers to consist of three, to be chosen at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

ART. IV. It shall be the duty of the President to preside in the Society, and to call Special Meetings of the same at the request of the Board of Managers.

ART. V. The Vice Presidents, by seniority, shall, in the absence, or at the request of the President perform the duties of President.

ART. VI. The Secretary shall keep the Records of the Society and conduct the necessary correspondence.

ART. VII. The Treasurer shall receive and account for all monies, and pay them over by order of the Board of Managers.

ART. VIII. The Board of Managers, under the direction of the Bishop, shall appoint Missionaries, and superintend their missionary labours, and authorize them to receive such compensation for their services as may be deemed adequate.

ART. IX. Persons shall be appointed in the various sections of the State to solicit such aid for the support of Missionaries as the pious and charitable may be disposed to contribute, and transmit the same to the Treasurer together with the names of the contributors.

ART. X. Each person whose subscription may amount to one Dollar annually shall be considered a Member of this Society. Ten Dollars shall entitle a subscriber to Membership for Life.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered, or amended by a vote of two thirds of the attending Members of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Vermont.

ART. XII. The Members attending shall always constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

This Report was accepted, and the Constitution of the Missionary Society, as above written, was adopted by the Convention.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be returned

to the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of the Eastern Diocese for his services in presiding over its present Session, and, also, for his excellent Sermon this day delivered before the same.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be returned to the Rev. Mr. Baldwin for his Sermon this day delivered.

On motion resolved, That the Constitution of the Missionary Society be printed, accompanied with a suitable Address.

Resolved, That the Rev. George Leonard be requested to prepare an Address to be printed with the Constitution of the Missionary Society, and that he be requested to superintend the printing of the same.

Resolved, That this Convention understand with satisfaction that a publication has been commenced in the Eastern Diocese under the name of the Gospel Advocate, which appears calculated to promote the interests of Religion and the Church, and do recommend to the friends of the Church in this State to use their influence to promote its circulation.

Resolved, That the next Annual Convention of this Diocese be holden in Zion Church, Manchester.

The Rev. Joel Clap was appointed to preach the Sermon at the opening of the next Convention: The Rev. Carlton Chase was appointed his substitute.

The Convention adjourned, without day.

Attest, JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

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In the Summer of 1821, Bishop Griswold visited the Churches of Vermont. The following passages from his Address to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese at Portsmouth, N. H. in 1822 are the official record of that Visitation, and properly belong to the foregoing Journal.

“On the 28th of May, 1821, I commenced a long journey, in which were visited the Churches in Vermont, and in the western parts of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire.”

“In Bennington, Vermont, I preached; but such is the prejudice against the Episcopal Church, in that part of the State, that no preaching of its ministers among them is likely at present to have much good effect. From one respectable family, attached to its worship and interests, I experienced, as on several former occasions, very much kindness and hospitality.”

“In Arlington, the Church continues to profit by the zealous labours of its pious pastor.”

“In Sandgate, a town adjoining, a few Episcopalians have organized a parish, with not unfavorable prospects. The parish in Manchester has built a Church, and is in a flourishing condition.”

“It was no small comfort to find in Rutland, a few names, yet steadfast, under all their discouragements, and very desirous that a Missionary should be sent them. Painful are a parent’s feelings, when his children ask for bread, and he has none to give them. May God in His mercy open our hearts and fill our hands to contribute to their relief.”

“The parish in Middlebury continues very much as it has been for years past, faint, yet pursuing; suffering much under the deprivation of Christian ordinances; wishing, and asking, and striving, to obtain a minister; but remaining destitute. In Vergennes, on the contrary, they seem to have relinquished all effort, and to have abandoned the Church in despair. Yet I met there a serious and very attentive congregation; and even yet, the labors of a faithful Missionary would probably be blessed among them.”

“In Shelburne, the state and prospects are happily very different. Through the blessing of God, we succeeded in finding a Clergyman to labor there, and his labors have been greatly blessed. The little Society, which, two years before, contained but eight or ten families, was now increased to a respectable congregation. I preached in Burlington, and was much obliged by polite attentions there received.”

“By setting off from Burlington at an early hour, and hard travelling in heavy roads, we arrived in St. Albans, in season for services in the afternoon. In the evening again we had Prayers and a Sermon. A pious, active Missionary, stationed in that place, and officiating alternately there, and at Swanton, might apparently labour to much profit. The Churches in Sheldon and Fairfield



were likewise in a thriving state. But an unhappy state of things commenced about that time, and still continues. Some reports and accusations, affecting the moral character of their Rector, have rendered a discontinuance of his labours expedient, till the cause shall have a canonical investigation. ”

“ On the 15th” of June, “ I visited a new parish in Berkshire, and was highly gratified in finding there much piety and zeal, and attachment to the Episcopal Church. Its friends were then making preparation for erecting a House of Prayer ; manifested a willingness, to the utmost of their abilities, to procure and support an Apostolic ministration of the Christian Ordinances. The services of that day were unusually interesting and impressive. There being no building sufficiently capacious to contain the congregation expected, with the timber collected for the new Church, on a beautiful rising ground, where it is to be erected, shaded by a small and very pleasant grove of sugar maples, the people prepared seats and other accommodations for Divine Service. Our Altar was built as it were *with unhewn stones*; we consecrated those materials by anticipating their use. The thought that they were to be fitly joined together, in one beautiful temple, dedicated to God, naturally caused the very interesting and serious reflections, that the congregation present were, or ought to be, materials in preparation ‘as lively stones,’ to be ‘a spiritual house,’ a ‘building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.’ Many circumstances conspired to heighten the interest of the scene and the occasion, and make impressions upon a serious mind not soon to be forgotten. Surveying the one, and reflecting upon the other; beholding a large assembly, collected from many miles of the country around, waiting, like Cornelius and his friends, and seeming to say, ‘we are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God,’ with the additional consideration, that their immortal well-being might, in some degree, depend on my knowledge and fidelity, feelings were excited, which language cannot easily express. On such occasions, and to the preacher of the Gospel similar occasions often recur, well may we exclaim ‘who is sufficient for these things!’ It is among the wonderful counsels of God’s unerring wisdom, that His strength should be manifest in weakness; that such a ‘treasure’ as the Gospel Ministry should be given us ‘in earthen vessels.’

that sinful creatures, themselves 'scarcely saved,' and some of them, we may well fear, not saved, should be made the instruments of saving others. Divine wisdom, however, is sure to adapt the means to the end; and in the hands of omnipotence, any means are effectual. The Lord 'can satisfy men with bread' in the most dreary *wilderness*. What seems to us impossible, with Him, is without difficulty: by the foolishness of preaching, He can save them that believe."

I was assisted in the services by my Reverend Brethren Leonard and Clap, who, to my great comfort, and no small assistance, accompanied me more than two hundred miles of this journey. After the second Lesson, seven young persons, with the appearance of much piety and sincere devotion, presented themselves to be baptized. The Sermon was heard with attention worthy of a better discourse; and, it being ended, *thirty-five* persons received Confirmation; and they received it, there was good reason to believe, with a just and deep sense of its nature and design. And finally, the Lord's Supper was administered to a respectable number of Communicants, "

"The next morning, we proceeded to Montgomery, where we had the pleasure of meeting with another newly formed Society, and where the services were very similar, and not less interesting. The tears of many, evinced how much awakened was their sense that the Lord is good, and they sinners."

"Montgomery is a town but recently settled. The Rev. Mr. Clap, yet a young man, was the first child (savages excepted) born within its limits. The soil in that part of the State is rich and productive, and the country rapidly rising into importance. A new stage road, from Boston to Montreal, was expected soon to pass through Montgomery and Berkshire; which, with their vicinity to Lake Champlain, and easy access to a good and sure market for their abundant and valuable productions, must render that, at no distant period, a wealthy part of the State. But to the pious mind, it is far more pleasing to find them increasing in 'the true riches.' I have been in no place, where there appeared a more serious and awakened desire to know and do the will of God; nor where the people are so generally disposed to receive the doctrines of the Church, and to delight in its worship. In no part of this

Diocese, and I verily believe, in no part of the United States, can our Missionaries labour more profitably, than in Franklin County, and some of the towns adjoining, eastward. Our young Clergymen, whose circumstances will reasonably admit of it, who desire to do good in the service of their Divine Master, rather than to honor themselves, and live at ease, can no where bestow their labours more profitably than in the northwest part of Vermont."

"Montgomery was the farthest extent of my tour in that direction. In the afternoon of the same day we returned back through Berkshire to Sheldon. The next day, Trinity Sunday, we spent in Fairfield, where I preached but twice; so long were our services, and so far from their homes were the most of the people, that a third service was not convenient. It was pleasing, and an evidence of their sincere desire to hear the Word, and receive the Ordinances of Christ, to observe the distance which the people, in that and other parts of Vermont, will travel, and many of them walk, to attend publick worship, and share in the ministrations of the Sanctuary. How unfaithful and without excuse would be the Stewards of God's mysteries—the Pastors of His Fold—if they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, should ever, unnecessarily, be sent empty away! Such zeal in the people, was felt as a strong, though silent reproof of my own remissness in the Saviour's cause."

"On the morning of the 18th, we took our leave of kind and much beloved friends, and shaped our course for crossing the mountain to the eastern side of the State, by a route which I had never before taken. In Richmond, we were joined by a respectable gentleman, a Lay Delegate from Shelburne, who, in company with his daughter, was on his way to the Convention;—an acquisition to our little company, which rendered the journey more pleasant."

"On the 20th, we reached Randolph, where we were received with much politeness, and were entertained by a gentleman of high respectability. The Church has some valuable friends, though no parish in that town. Being in a very friendly manner invited by the Congregational Minister and others of his society, we had Divine Service and a Sermon in their meeting-house. There, too, I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with a

worthy Presbyterian minister, and a part of his interesting family. One or two of his sons are pursuing studies with a view to Holy Orders."

"The next day, for the first time, I had the pleasure of meeting with a respectable number of Episcopalians, in Bethel, who have been too much neglected. I had not, before that visit, supposed that the number of those attached, or at least, favourable, to our Communion in that place, was so considerable. Though the rains fell abundantly, a large congregation assembled, and appeared to be much interested in all the services. The number confirmed was much greater than I had expected. They appeared to be thankful for the Sermon, and refreshed by the visitation; and it was a subject of no small regret, to myself certainly, that previous appointments at Windsor and other places, made it necessary to leave them soon and pursue our journey."

"The parish in Windsor continues to merit the 'praise of all the Churches.' They were building a new and elegant house for Divine service, which is now nearly finished, and is soon to be consecrated. Considering that the parish is but small, their pious liberality, prudent conduct, and united zeal in this noble work, are deserving of the highest praise. Long may the house remain to them and their children, through remote generations, a happy Bethel."

"On the morning of the 23d, we crossed the Connecticut River into New-Hampshire, and had services in Cornish. There I first learned, that the parish in Claremont, having enlarged their old Church, and put it in complete repair, requested that it might, that day, be consecrated. With some little difficulty, and the utmost diligence in making the best use of our scanty time, this was done in the afternoon. The services being ended, we proceeded three miles farther to the village, where the parish have purchased and put in good repair, a large, new, and convenient Church. In it, was a handsome pair of chandeliers, generously presented to the Church by a gentleman in Boston."

"Our Services the next day—Sunday the 24th, being also, St. John's day—were well attended. In consequence of a polite invitation, our third services were held in the Congregational



Meeting House. At Drewsville, the next day, the congregation was small, and the people appeared to be discouraged."

"On Wednesday, the 27th" of June, "I met with the Convention of Vermont, at Bellows Falls. It was well attended: so many Clergymen of our order had never before been together in that State. After the exercises usual on such occasions, the business of the Convention was conducted and finished with great unanimity, and much to the satisfaction of the members. Nothing was transacted of more importance, than the forming of a Missionary Society, which it is hoped may prove to be highly beneficial."

"By travelling expeditiously, we reached Guilford in season for services in the Meeting House on the 28th. In the morning of the day following, we met in the Church, distant four miles; and in the afternoon pursued our journey to Greenfield. And thus was finished the tour through Vermont, having, in the course of it, visited every Church or Episcopal Society in the State. Those of Sandgate met us in Arlington; and the few of our Communion in Pawlet and Wells have the benefit of the visitations of the Bishop of New-York. In every parish I preached once; in several twice; and in some three times. And in almost every one, I confirmed and gave the Communion. In this journey, which almost compassed the whole State, I noticed, with awakened attention and great pleasure, much improvement, which, in the last few years, has taken place. There appears certainly to be an increasing respect for the doctrines of Christ and the worship of God. Pious, regular, orthodox, and well educated Ministers of the Gospel are more respected, and better received; and those of a contrary character, less countenanced and supported. This, as we may of course suppose, is attended with improvement in morals; and accordingly there appears less idleness and dissipation; and the consumption of ardent spirits is evidently diminished. In agriculture, more neatness, order, and industry are visible. 'Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is.' What reason and the Word of God teach, does experience confirm, that a due regard for religious institutions, and especially for the regular and decent worship of Almighty God, is productive, not of good morals only, but of good economy, and of all the blessings of civil and social life."

"Sunday, the 14th of October, I passed in Claremont; preached three times to very large and unusually attentive congregations, and administered baptism and confirmation. In the eleven years of my ministry in this office, I have held confirmation in Claremont nine times, and have administered the rite in that parish to two hundred and sixty-seven persons. In no place, perhaps, are the Ministers of Christ more cordially received; nor treated with affection more truly Christian."

"On my way into Vermont, I preached at Bellows Falls; on the evening of the 16th, arrived at Manchester; and on the 17th, assisted by my Reverend Brethren, Bronson, Beach, Chase, Humphrey, and Baurý, consecrated the new Church in Manchester, called 'Zion Church.' The house was much crowded through all the services, by people, who listened as those who have 'ears to hear.' They remained during the Communion Service; and, with the exception of one denomination, all the Communicants of various Churches present, including several Congregational Ministers, received with us the Lord's Supper. It seemed as a pleasing foretaste of that happy time, when 'all the faithful people of God' shall unite in His adoration and praise. May 'His kingdom come;' and that we may be prepared for its unspeakable joys, 'His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"

"Zion Church is neat and commodious; and though small, its erection was a noble work for a still smaller parish. On this occasion, my thoughts were led to some serious reflections, whether it might not be chiefly my own fault that of the Churches in this Diocese, the most inconvenient and least worthy of the abilities and generous spirit of those who worship in it, is that of my own parish in Bristol."

"On the 18th, we had services in Arlington, where a few were confirmed; and Jordan Gray was admitted to the Order of Deacons. On my way from thence to the General Convention in Philadelphia, I had leisure to remain a few days in Troy, in the Diocese of New-York; which, both on account of my then declining health, and the politeness and very kind attentions I there received, proved a providential blessing." *Gospel Advocate*, vol. ii, pp. 330—340. Boston, Nov. 1822.

1822.

MANCHESTER, June 26th, 1822.

This being the day prescribed by the Constitution of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont for the Annual Meeting of said Convention, a number of the Clergy and Lay Delegates from several Churches in the State assembled in Zion Church, Manchester, at nine o'clock, A. M.

The following Clergymen and Delegates were present :

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,    The Rev. JOEL CLAP,  
The Rev. STEPHEN BEACH,    The Rev. CARLTON CHASE,  
The Rev. GEORGE LEONARD,    The Rev. JORDAN GRAY.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER:

Mr. JEREMIAH STRATTON,    Mr. TRUMAN PURDY,  
Mr. WILLIAM BENEDICT.

CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD:

DANA HYDE, M. D.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

Mr. CAROLUS C. BRAINARD.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD:

Mr. NATHAN LOBDELL,    Mr. ABIJAH HAWLEY.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON:

Mr. CHARLES B. WESSON.

MIDDLEBURY:

Mr. GEORGE CLEVELAND.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE:

Mr. JOSHUA ISHAM.

IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS:

Mr. GEORGE CALDWELL.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

Mr. SAMUEL A. WILKINS.

BETHEL CHURCH, ARLINGTON:

Mr. MOSES HARD,    Martin C. DEMING,  
ANSON CANFIELD.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was appointed President, and the Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

The following Parochial Reports were then presented and read, viz.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 4; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 5; Communicants, 57.

BETHEL AND BETHESDA CHURCHES, ARLINGTON.

THE REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 3; Marriages, 1; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 87.

These parishes, on the whole remain much as usual, though deaths and removals, together with one suspension from each Church, have somewhat lessened the number of Communicants.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 4; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 4; Communicants, 70.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 5; Marriages, 1; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 47.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

THE REV. STEPHEN BEACH, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 2; Funerals, 1; Communicants, 18.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

THE REV. GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

Baptisms (in St. Paul's Church 6, one in Bethel) — 7;  
Marriages, 3; Burials, 4; Communicants, 35.



IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

THE REV. CARLTON CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 5; Burials, 2; Marriages, 1; Communicants, 25.

It may be proper to mention, that during the past year the Parish has been favored with a bequest of one thousand dollars, by a Lady lately deceased in the City of New York.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE.

THE REV. JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 9, children 8) — 17; Funerals, 3; Marriages, 2; Communicants, 47; Families, 55.

BERKSHIRE.

THE REV. JORDAN GRAY, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 5; Marriages, 2; Burials, 1; Communicants, 28; Families, 16.

UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

THE REV. JORDAN GRAY, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 7; Burials, 2; Communicants, 27; Families, 14.

ENOSBURGH.

THE REV. JORDAN GRAY, MINISTER.

Communicants, 11; Families, 6.

CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

THE REV. ALFRED L. BAURY, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 6; Marriages, 3; Burials, 5; Communicants, 75.

MIDDLEBURY.

Baptisms, 8; Marriages, 2; Communicants, 30.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

MR. CAROLUS C. BRAINARD, LAY READER.

Service has been performed in this Church regularly since the sitting of the last Convention by Lay Reading, and the attention and rubrical responses given by the congregation show the ardour

and seriousness of their attachment to the primitive and Scriptural faith of our Apostolic Church. Our little society has been favoured with but two days preaching the year past, nor has the Communion been administered but once; yet our faith and numbers increase, and most earnestly do we pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth among us a faithful Labourer.

During intermissions on Sunday much pains has been taken to instruct children and youth to the number of about twenty in the Common Prayer and Bible, with a degree of success that reflects much honour on said youth for their unwearied diligence and perseverance in attending upon the instructions of their Catechist.

The number of Communicants is forty-two. There are seven candidates for Baptism.

Considering the sickening aspect of this Society in a spiritual point of view at the time of the re-organization of this Church in April 1821, and the very little Clerical aid they have received, strangers as they were to each other and in many instances strangers to true religion and the Church, we have great reason, and it is our bounden duty to return humble and hearty thanks to the great Head of the Church for granting in so special a manner the continual dew of His blessing to this insulated branch of His Catholic Church. It may be proper to remark that during the winter past service has not been performed in consequence of the absence of the Reader. This Church and society are able and willing to advance one hundred dollars annually for the support of a Clergyman among them any part of the time.

The Convention adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. George Leonard, and a discourse was delivered by the Rev. Joel Clap. The Holy Communion was administered by the Rev. Carlton Chase, assisted by the Rev. Jordan Gray.

Public services being ended, the Convention proceeded to business.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till 3 o'clock, P. M.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Convention met according to adjournment.

On motion by the Rev. Carlton Chase, the Convention proceeded to election of Standing Committee by ballot.

Voted, That the Standing Committee shall consist of four Members.

The following gentlemen were duly elected the Standing Committee. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Carlton Chase and the Rev. Joel Clap.

On motion by the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Convention proceeded to the choice of a Prudential Committee. The following gentlemen were chosen. Hon. Daniel Chipman, George Cleveland, Esq., Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard.

On motion, by the Rev. Jordan Gray, the Convention proceeded to the appointment of Deputies to the General Convention. The following Clerical and Lay Deputies were duly chosen, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Carlton Chase, the Rev. Joel Clap, Joshua Isham, Esq., George Cleveland, Esq., Elisha Sheldon, M. D. and Mr. Alexander Fleming.

The Convention proceeded to the appointment of Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. The following Clerical and Lay Delegates were duly appointed, viz. The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Joel Clap, the Rev. Stephen Beach, Mr. Samuel A. Wilkins, William Barber, Esq., Richard D. Parker, Esq. and Mr. John Bellendy.

On motion by the Rev. Carlton Chase, resolved, That in case any or either of the Delegates appointed by this Convention to attend the General and Diocesan Conventions should not find it convenient to fulfil their appointment they shall have power to choose Substitutes, subject to the constitutional provision.

The following communication from the Secretary of the General Convention was read :

“At a meeting of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America,

held in the City of Philadelphia in the month of May, 1820, Resolved, That it be made known to the several State Conventions of the Church, that it is proposed to consider at the next General Convention, and if deemed expedient, finally to ratify, the following alteration of the first Article of the Constitution—by striking out so much of the first Article as relates to the time of holding the General Convention, and by inserting after the words, ‘United States of America’ in the said article the words, ‘at such time in every third year,’ and by inserting after the word ‘Convention’ the following clause—‘and in case there shall be an epidemic disease or any other good cause to render it necessary to alter the place fixed for any such meeting of the Convention, that the Presiding Bishop shall have it in his power to appoint another convenient place, as near as may be to the place so fixed on, for holding such Convention.’”

Extract from the Journal of the General Convention.

ASHBEL BALDWIN, Secretary  
of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies.”

On motion, resolved, That this Convention does not approve of the foregoing proposed amendment.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was nominated by the Convention as a Trustee of the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, agreeably to the provision of the third Article of the Constitution of the aforesaid Seminary.

On motion by the Rev. Stephen Beach, the Convention adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Evening Prayer was read by the Rev. Jordan Gray, and a Sermon was preached by the Rev. Carlton Chase.

After the conclusion of Service, the Convention again met for business.

On motion, resolved, That the Clergy of this State be requested to preach on the subject of Domestic Missions, in their respective Churches and to solicit contributions once



or more in the year, for the benefit of the funds of the Protestant Episcopal Missionary Society of this State.

Resolved, That the Clergy of this Church be requested to perform similar services in the several vacant Parishes in this State.

On motion, resolved, That the Rev. Carlton Chase and the Rev. Joel Clap be a Committee to make an Abstract of the proceedings of the Convention of this State for the three years last past, and to superintend the printing of the same, together with the Constitution and Canons of the Church in this State.

On motion voted, That the next Annual Meeting of this Convention be held at St. Albans, except it shall be reasonably ascertained that the Church now building in Berkshire will not be consecrated about the time of said Meeting, in which case the President shall have it in his power to appoint it at Middlebury by giving timely notice of the same to the several Churches in the State.

The Convention adjourned until 5 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday June 27th, 5 o'clock, A. M. The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The Rev. Carlton Chase was appointed to preach the Sermon at the opening of the next Convention, and the Rev. George Leonard as his substitute.

The Convention adjourned, sine die.

Attest, JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

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Some portions of the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese assembled at Portsmouth, New Hampshire September 25, 1802, of a general and statistical character are here subjoined as properly forming a part of the Journal of this Diocese for that year. The major part of what in this Address related to Vermont was for reasons given put into the Journal of last year,

“REV. BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,  
HIGHLY AND JUSTLY ESTEEMED :

Through the indulgence of a kind Providence, we are here assembled as watchmen in Zion, and constituted guardians of that portion of God's Vineyard committed to our care; to consult respecting its interests; and, as the Lord shall give us means and wisdom, to promote its prosperity. It is necessary, to the good result of our deliberations, to know the state and wants of our Churches; and it is my duty to make to you a report of my official transactions during the last two years; and to add such remarks and suggest such measures as may seem just and expedient.”

“On the 18th of October 1821, the new, commodious, and very beautiful edifice, called Christ Church, Gardner, was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. The Morning Service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Morss; and the Rev. Dr. Jarvis delivered an appropriate Discourse. On the 19th was a Confirmation and other services. My intention is with the Divine permission, again to visit those two Churches in Maine, immediately after the adjournment of the present Convention. It is decidedly my opinion, that the spiritual interest and prosperity of our Churches require that every parish should be annually visited by its Diocesan: but the very limited and scanty funds of this Diocese, and the extent of country over which our few Churches are scattered, render such frequent visitations, at present, impracticable. My intention is, and with few exceptions, my practice has been, to visit all the parishes at least once in two years; and a large proportion of them twice, or oftener. It requires no great wisdom to foresee, what experience will probably soon verify; that our present practice of making a State, however large, but one Diocese may be very pernicious to the cause of true godliness, and the best interest of the Churches. Thirty, or at most forty parishes are enough for one Diocese; unless their location is very compact. And though the number in this Diocese, excepting some very small, does not much exceed forty, it is desirable that as soon as it can with propriety be effected, this Diocese should be divided. Vermont, especially, however reluctantly I might relinquish the happiness of my present very interesting connexion with its Churches, ought, as soon as circumstances will admit, to have a Bishop wholly its own.”

“On my return from Maine, I passed Sunday, the 22d, in Portsmouth, where I preached three times, and confirmed thirty persons. What the state of this Church is and what the politeness and hospitality of its members, we all have the pleasure, of seeing.”

“The 24th, I preached and confirmed in Newburyport. In the evening we had a second service, when the Rev. Dr. Jarvis preached to a large, and very attentive congregation. The solemnity of the services, and, in all human appearance, their good effect, evinced more forcibly than many arguments, the expedience and utility of occasionally opening our Churches in the evening and, when practicable, of doing it at regular and stated seasons. In towns, and large villages especially, where the people may easily assemble, the salutary effect of such extra services is very manifest. Many will attend these meetings, who cannot, with convenience, and some who cannot consistently with what they suppose their duty, attend our religious worship at other times. A third service is peculiarly beneficial on Sunday evenings, when the minds of people are less engaged with temporal cares, and more disposed to spiritual things. Very many, of young people, especially, who would otherwise spend the evening of the Lord’s Day in idle parties and vain conversation, are drawn to the house of God, and their attention called to things which concern their immortal welfare.”

“My last information from those parts”—the northwestern part of Vermont—“which is quite recent, states, that the prospects are still brightening. Since my visit there, a parish has been formed in Enosburgh. Mr. Gray, the Minister now officiating in those new parishes, has preached in several other towns in the vicinity. Large congregations assemble to hear the Word; many are desirous to obtain Prayer Books; and, in all human probability, several other societies might be easily formed. There are already between sixty and seventy Communicants, where, a short time since, we had none. The call there for missionary labours is still increasing.”

“The General Convention in October last, as is well known, was specially called on the business of the Theological Seminary. The result was happier than perhaps any of the members, under existing circumstances, had dared to hope. To avoid the dreadful evils of strife and litigation, it was judged expedient to yield, almost wholly, to the high claims of the Diocese of New-York.

The Constitution adopted, gives the General Convention some control in the concerns of the Seminary: but in its operation, it will no doubt be managed chiefly by that Diocese. It is not my intention, however, to insinuate that the management is placed in improper hands. Its location in the most populous, commercial and frequented city of our country, will necessarily exclude a large part of our theological students from the school; and is, in my judgment, on other accounts, injudicious."

During the last two years, every parish in this Diocese, except some very recently organized, has been visited. In almost all of them Confirmation has been once administered, and in many of them twice. The whole number confirmed is *six hundred and fifty-two*: a number certainly not large for so many Churches. But it should be considered, that the greater part of our parishes are yet very small; and also that I have not thought it my duty to encourage any to make that solemn profession of their belief and devotion to God, except they are sufficiently instructed in Christianity, and receive the ordinance from pious, conscientious motives. The practice, which we may well fear has not been uncommon, of admitting to confirmation, and even urging to be confirmed, those who have no serious sense of religion, nor real intention to devote themselves to God, through Christ, is injurious to Christianity, and to our Church in particular: it has caused confirmation to be lightly esteemed, and much neglected. And we may add, as a further reason, why there are in this Diocese so few confirmations, that a great proportion of our largest parishes are on the sea-board; in which, it is painful to state, there are fewer males who receive the Christian ordinances. In a visitation to one of our principal Churches, there were fifty females confirmed, and not one male. In our country Churches the men are little enough attentive to spiritual things; but they are still less so in commercial towns. If 'one goes his way to his *farm*,' rather than his Saviour; still more frequently does "another to his *merchandize*."

"To the list of candidates have been added, Seneca White, Wm. T. Potter, Benjamin C. Cutler, Lot Jones, Charles H. Alden, George Griswold, and George Richardson. The number is small, as is also that of the ordinations. Alfred L. Baury, John J. Robinson, Samuel B. Shaw, Silas Blaisdale, Stephen H. Tyng, Jordan



Gray, Charles H. Alden, Alexander Jones, Junior, and Benjamin C. Cutler, have been received to the Order of Deacons; and the Rev. Isaac Boyle only has been ordained a Presbyter."

"Mr. Shaw and Mr. Tyng have had Letters Dimissory to the Southern States."

"There is one subject, which, in every Address, and on every occasion; in season and out of season; I think it my duty to keep constantly in view, and which I scarcely need add, is that of assisting our small poor parishes. In addition to what; at sundry times and in diverse manners; I have said upon this point, permit me to call your attention to the hard case of those who, from a conscientious preference for the doctrines, worship, and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church, have withdrawn from other denominations, and from whom, they have been accustomed to receive much attention, and enjoy great privileges, and have formed themselves into societies, according to our order and discipline; and now find themselves, in a great degree, or altogether, neglected. They have none to encourage, none to instruct them: they rarely, if ever, hear the words of life from the lips of our Ministers; they become at length disheartened, and discontinue their efforts. Were they suitably and in season cherished, others would be encouraged to follow their example. But as the case is, the contrary is the effect. Many whose faith and hearts are with us, are deterred from making an effort so hopeless."

"In no one thing as I conceive, can we better promote the interests of religion, than in selecting, encouraging, and aiding pious young men, of suitable qualifications, to labour as Missionaries in the remote parts of this Diocese. Or, if there be any one duty of still greater importance, it is, that all the members of our Churches should be more frequent, and more earnest in our prayers to Almighty God, and the adorable Head of the Church, that He will send Labourers into His Harvest—Pastors after His own mind; and that he will direct and prosper those who are now engaged in the sacred ministry. It is much to be feared that there is among us a very great deficiency in this duty, without which, you well know, all we do else is to little purpose. Our blessed Lord has particularly commanded us, as the most effectual means of obtaining labourers for His work, to apply directly, by

prayer, to Him, *'the Lord of the Harvest.'* That he may inspire, direct, and hear our prayers, God mercifully grant through Jesus Christ."

The whole Address from which the foregoing paragraphs are copied may be found in the Gospel Advocate, vol. ii. pp. 330-340. Boston Nov. 1822.

The alterations in the Constitution of the Eastern Diocese proposed at the last Meeting of the Convention—in 1820—were unanimously adopted. By these alterations, Maine became a member of the Diocese, the Meetings of the Convention Annual, and all the Clergy and a Delegate from each Church, members of the Convention.

The following alterations in the Constitution were proposed in the Convention of 1822, and ordered to lie over for consideration at the next meeting of the same, viz. in the second Article, that the words, "each of the States by rotation," be erased, and the words, "such place as shall be agreed upon at the preceding Convention," be inserted; also, that after the words, "lay delegate," the words, "or delegates, not exceeding three," be inserted. In the tenth Article, that the word *annual* be substituted for the word *biennial*. Gospel Advocate, vol. ii, p. 357.

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## 1823.

MIDDLEBURY, June 24th, 1823.

This being the day appointed by the Constitution for the Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, several Clergymen and Lay Delegates, assembled in the Church at Middlebury, at half past nine o'clock, A. M.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was elected President and the Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

The following Clergymen were present :

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,	The Rev. CARLTON CHASE,
The Rev. BENJAMIN B. SMITH,	The Rev. SAMUEL B. SHAW,
The Rev. JOEL CLAP,	The Rev. ELIJAH BRAINARD.

The following Delegates presented Certificates of their appointment and took their seats :

BETHEL AND BETHESDA CHURCHES, ARLINGTON:  
NOBLE HARD.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER:  
JESSE HARD,                      TRUMAN PURDY.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburnE:  
JOSHUA ISHAM,                      NEHEMIAH SAXTON.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD:  
ABIJAH HAWLEY.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:  
JOHN RICHARDSON,              SAMUEL A. WILKINS.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON:  
JOHN S. GALLUP.

CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE:  
AMHERST WILLOUGHBY.

ENOSBURGH:  
WILLIAM BARBER.

UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY:  
JOHN L. CLAP.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:  
B. COTTON.

CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD:  
CYPRIAN STEVENS.

On motion resolved, That the Rev. Moses Burt, from the Diocese of New-York, be invited to an honorary seat in this Convention.

On motion, adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. Samuel B. Shaw, and a Sermon preached by the Rev. Carlton Chase. The Holy Communion was administered by the Reverend, the

President, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Shaw. After which, the Convention met according to adjournment.

The Hon. Daniel Chipman, Middlebury, exhibited his Credentials and took his seat.

Cotesworth P. Bronson, having satisfied the Convention of his appointment, as a Lay Delegate from St. Matthew's Church, Sandgate, was admitted to his seat.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until 3 o'clock, P. M.

Three o'clock, P. M. The Convention met according to adjournment. Samuel B. Booth, Lay Delegate from Vergennes, presented his Credentials and took his seat.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to revise the Canons of the Church in this State.

The following gentlemen were appointed the Committee ; The Rev. Carlton Chase, the Rev. Benjamin B. Smith and the Hon. Daniel Chipman.

The following Parochial Reports were presented and read :

#### BETHEL AND BETHESDA CHURCHES, ARLINGTON.

Marriage, 1 ; Funerals, 11 ; Communicants, 80.

#### ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, MINISTEE.

Baptisms, 5 ; Marriage, 1 ; Funerals, 5 ; Communicants, 57. These Churches, for the last year, have suffered much from deaths and removals, and but one Communicant has been added to each.

#### IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS,

CARLTON CHASE, RECTOR,

Continues in a flourishing condition. Nothing worthy of particular notice has taken place during the past year. Marriage, 1 ; Deaths, 8 ; Communicants, 26. It is expected, that a considerable number of children will soon be baptized.



The parish in Middlebury has been called to contend with numerous difficulties and discouragements. It is long since they have enjoyed the ministrations of a stated Pastor. And the faith and hope of its friends have been tried to the utmost. They have been discouraged by the removal and death of some of their warmest supporters; and they have, in some instances, been forsaken by their firm friends, who were finally discouraged by the low prospects of the Church. But a new impulse appears now to be felt. Very active exertions are making to render the small house where they worship more commodious, and to provide a fixed maintenance for a permanent Minister. Encouraging hopes are now entertained that they will see days of prosperity according to the days wherein they have seen adversity. And it is hoped that fervent prayers are ascending, and will continue to ascend, for God's special blessing upon those exertions which are making for the advancement of His kingdom in the midst of us. The number of Communicants has been greatly diminished by death and removal. It is now only twenty-seven. The number of Baptisms the last year has been only three—one by the Rev. Mr. Bronson, and two, by the present Pastor.

BENJAMIN B. SMITH.

#### TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

E. BRAINARD, MISSIONARY.

Communicants, 60 ; Deaths, 2.

#### GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

E. BRAINARD, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms, 3 ; Communicants, 42.

#### UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

E. BRAINARD, MISSIONARY.

Births, 3 ; Baptisms, 2 ; Communicants, 11 ; Removals, 7.

## TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 7, children 10) — 17 ; Marriages, 3 ; Funerals, 6 ; Communicants, 62.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

Communicants, 24.

## ENOSBURGH.

Communicants, 12.

## BERKSHIRE.

Baptism, 1 ; Communicants, 27.

These Parishes have sustained a very great loss, in the sudden death of their worthy and much beloved Minister, the Reverend Jordan Gray, whose clerical labours were peculiarly acceptable to the people of his charge, and the unblemished holiness and piety of his life had endeared him to a numerous circle of friends among whom, the prospect of his future usefulness was continually brightening, until the Great Head of the Church, in His holy providence, removed him from his labours, on the 7th of April last, while attempting to cross a small stream swollen by the rains.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms (adult 1, children 12) — 13 ; Communicants, 56.

## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

SAMUEL BRENTON SHAW, MINISTER.

Baptism, 1 ; Marriages, 2 ; Deaths, 5 ; Communicants, 45. As many as seventy-five, according to the last year's report, have communed in this Church, but not more than the above number consider themselves Episcopalians. Families, 65 ; Sunday Scholars, 50. This Parish was destitute of clerical services during a great part of the past year.

## ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, SANDGATE.

C. P. BRONSON, LAY READER.

Funerals, 2; Communicants, 22; Families, 30. The prospects of this Church are somewhat encouraging; there is a Sunday School established here which is quite promising, in which are taught every Sabbath from thirty to forty scholars.

THE WHOLE NUMBER OF BAPTISMS, 45; BURIALS, 34; COMMUNICANTS, 551.

The following gentlemen were elected the Standing Committee, for the ensuing year: The Rev. Abraham Bronson, the Rev. Carlton Chase, the Rev. George Leonard, the Rev. Benj. B. Smith and the Rev. Joel Clap.

The following gentlemen were appointed the Prudential Committee: Hon. Daniel Chipman, Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard, Dorastus Wooster, Joshua Isham, and George Cleveland, Esqrs.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That in case there should be a Special Meeting of the General Convention within the ensuing year, the Delegates appointed by this Convention, at their last annual meeting, be authorized to represent this Convention in that body.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the Agents and Attorneys of the "Incorporated Society established in London for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," be requested to lay before this Convention such information as they possess in relation to Lands which they have in charge for said Society, and what the Church in this State may reasonably expect from the avails of said Lands.

The following extract from the Journal of the General Convention, received from the Secretary of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, was laid before the Convention: "Resolved, That in order that the contingent expenses of the General Convention may be defrayed, that it be rec-

ommended to the several Diocesan and State Conventions to forward to the Secretary of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies at each meeting of said Convention, the sum of seventy-five cents for each Clergyman within said Diocese and State."

Whereupon, on motion of the Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That this Convention highly approve of the method proposed by the Secretary of the General Convention with regard to the mode of defraying the incidental expenses of that body; and that it holds itself in readiness to comply with said resolution.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Chipman, Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to deliver over to the Clerk of the Agents of "The Incorporated Society established at London for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," all the papers and documents in his possession relating to the Lands in this State belonging to said Society.

The Rev. Mr. Chase proposed the following amendments to the Constitution: after the word "Convention," in the second line of the 4th Article in the printed copy, to strike out the words, "and when there is to be a session of the General Convention within the ensuing year," and insert the word "also:" After the words "delegation shall," in the 4th line, to insert the word "annually." Also, in the 5th line, after the words "this State in" to strike out the words "that body; also as long as this State shall belong to the Eastern Diocese, a delegation shall be appointed to attend each Diocesan Convention, or at some meeting specially warned for that purpose," and insert the words "the General Convention." Also, in the 11th line of said Article, to strike out the words "or Diocesan."

Adjourned, until 8 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Thursday, June 25th, 8 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

Hannibal Hodges, Lay Delegate from Trinity Church, Rutland, presented his Credentials and took his seat.



The Hon. Daniel Chipman, in behalf of the Agents and Attorneys of "The Incorporated Society established at London for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," made a verbal report, in answer to the request contained in a resolution adopted by this Convention yesterday. Whereupon, Resolved, That the said Agents be requested to reduce said Report to writing, and the Secretary is directed to publish the same with the Journal, together with such remarks on the same, as may be useful to the members of the Church in this State ; and that the Rev. Benj. B. Smith, George Cleveland and Dorastus Wooster, Esqs. be, and are hereby appointed a Committee to carry the object of this resolution into effect.

On motion, adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. Joel Clap, and a Sermon preached by the Rev. Benj. B. Smith : After which the Convention met according to adjournment.

On motion, by the Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That the next Annual Meeting of this Convention be held in Christ Church, Bethel.

The Rev. Benjamin B. Smith was appointed to preach at the opening of the next Convention, and the Rev. Samuel B. Shaw, his Substitute.

The Rev. Mr. Chase, in behalf of the Committee appointed to revise the Canons, presented a report which was accepted ; and after the adoption of sundry amendments to the second Canon as reported, the following Canons were adopted by the Convention :

#### CANON I.

OF THE MODE OF TRYING CLERGYMEN ACCUSED OF MISDEMEANOR.

Whenever the Standing Committee shall have reason to suspect any Clergyman of this Church to be guilty of infidelity, heresy, vice, or irregularity of any kind, it shall be

their duty to inquire into the circumstances of the case ; and if, upon such inquiry, they are convinced, that there exists sufficient cause of complaint, they shall represent the same to the Bishop, at the same time stating specifically whereof the party is accused ; whereupon, by order of the Bishop, a council of Presbyters, consisting of not less than three, shall be convened, who under the direction of the Bishop, shall proceed in due time to try the party accused ; a copy of the accusation or accusations, and twenty days notice of the time and place of trial being communicated to such party. And furthermore, it shall be the duty of the Standing Committee at such trial, to lay before the Bishop and his Presbyters, such evidence as they may be able to obtain relative to the case under investigation.

## CANON II.

### OF THE FORMING AND ORGANIZING OF CHURCHES.

Whenever any number of persons in this State shall form themselves into a regular Society, of the Protestant Episcopal faith, in such manner, as that they will become a body corporate according to law, and their proceedings shall be sanctioned by the Bishop of the Diocese and the Standing Committee of this State, or in case of a vacancy in the Episcopal Office, by the state Convention or its Standing Committee, they shall be admitted to all the rights and privileges of a regular Church, subject at all times to the authority and discipline of said Bishop, or in case of a vacancy in the Episcopal Office, of said Convention or its Standing Committee.

Voted, That the money in the hands of the Secretary be appropriated towards defraying the expense of printing the Journal of the Convention.

The Rev. Benj. B. Smith and the Hon. Daniel Chipman were appointed a Committee to report to the next annual meeting of this Convention, a uniform mode of election of

Lay Delegates from the several parishes in this State, and a form of certificate of said election.

Adjourned, without day.

Attest, JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

#### REPORT OF THE AGENTS.

To the Convention of the Episcopal Church of the State of Vermont, now convened at Middlebury, the undersigned, Agents and Attorneys of the Incorporated Society established at London for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, for recovering the possession of their Lands in the State of Vermont, and appropriating the avails thereof for the support of the Protestant Episcopal Church in said State, in compliance with the request contained in your resolution of the 24th inst., cheerfully give to the Convention the following information relating to said lands :

By the Charters of most of the Townships in this State issued by the Governor of New-Hampshire, one Right in each Township was granted to the Incorporated Society established at London for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Soon after the issuing of the Charters, and before the Towns were generally settled, the Revolution intervened, by which the Territory became independent of Great Britain. Soon after the Treaty of Peace, to wit, on the 20th of May, 1785, the Society, knowing they were vested with property in the late American Colonies, and that their title thereto was secured to them by the Treaty of 1783, passed the following resolution : “ Resolved, That the Secretary do write to some one or more members of the Church of England in each of the States of America, in which the Society has any property, to take proper care in securing said property, and further inform such persons, that it is the intention of the Society to make over all such property to the use of the Episcopal Church in that Country, in whatever manner or form, after communication with the several Governments, shall appear most effectual for that purpose.” A copy of the foregoing resolution having been transmitted to the principal Episcopalians, in the United States, measures were immediately taken by the Church in New-Hampshire, to procure the

lands belonging to the Society in that State, consisting of a Right in most of the towns, granted in the same form as were the Townships in this State. And they soon after procured from the Society, a conveyance to Messrs. Adams and Sheaf, or rather procured a Power of Attorney to them, authorizing them to recover possession of the Lands in the name of the Society, and to appropriate the Rents and Profits to the support of the Church in that State. Suits were afterwards commenced by said Agents, to recover possession of the Lands in the State Courts, and in the Court of the United States, and recoveries had in both. It does not appear by the Journals of the Convention in this State, that any thing was done by the Church, towards procuring the Lands from the Society until the Month of September, 1794, when the Convention appointed a Committee to make application to the Society for the Lands, consisting of the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Daniel Barber, the Rev. J. C. Ogden, Messrs. Eleazer Baldwin, Truman Squier, Matthew Lyon and Ebenezer Marvin. It appears that this Committee made application for the Lands to the Society through their Agent, Col. John A. Graham, but were unsuccessful.

It does not appear that any further step was taken by the Church, to obtain said Lands, until the meeting of the Convention at Arlington, in the year 1805, when the Convention directed their Standing Committee to take further steps to obtain the Society Lands in Vermont; and appointed on said Committee the Rev. Bethuel Chittenden, the Rev. Abraham Bronson, Daniel Chipman, Truman Squier, Martin Roberts and Anson J. Sperry, Esqrs. This Committee also made application to the Society for their Lands in this State, but failed in their application as appears by a letter from the Secretary of the Society to Bishop Moore, through whom the application was made, bearing date Nov. 30, 1808. The reason why this application was unsuccessful, is perfectly obvious from the following extract from said letter: "There have been indeed a variety of applications from the State of Vermont, so different in their object and design, that the Society could not comply with any of them, desirous as they are to extend the cause of religion to the utmost of their power." No further steps were taken to obtain the Lands, until the year 1811, when the Rev. Abraham Bronson and Anson



J. Sperry, Esq. delegates from this State, to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, holden at New-Haven, in Connecticut, in the month of May, obtained a resolution of the Convention, directing Bishop White, the Presiding Bishop of the House of Bishops, to write to the Society in London, in behalf of the Convention, and inform them, that the Church in Vermont was regularly organized and under the care of the Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, and that a Board of Trustees of Donations to the Church had been incorporated in Massachusetts, and that it was the opinion of the Convention that their Lands in Vermont might be safely conveyed to such Agents and Attorneys as might be recommended by said Board of Trustees, and approved by the Convention of Vermont. In pursuance of the above resolution, such a letter was written by Bishop White, and on the recommendation of the leading Church people in Vermont, the said Trustees in Boston on the 5th day of June 1815, recommended the present Agents, and this recommendation was approved of by the Convention of this State holden at Arlington on the 28th of the same June. The Agents thus appointed, by order of the Convention, immediately transmitted all the papers and documents relating to the application to the Society for the Lands, to the Hon. and Rev. Charles Stewart, who then resided in the Province of Canada, and was about to visit London. This extraordinary man was one of the Scottish Nobility, who had taken orders in the Church, and whose piety and zeal in promoting her interests, had prompted him to cross the ocean, and to place himself in that part of the Province of Lower Canada which borders on this State, and there spend his time and his income in forming Churches, and in visiting families in that new settled country and giving them moral and religious instruction. The influence of such a man, the Agents were sure, would remove that jealousy and suspicion, which the Society had imbibed, in relation to the Church in Vermont. In this they were not disappointed. A power of Attorney was executed by the Society bearing date the 5th day of December, 1816, authorizing the Agents and Attorneys, "to sue for and recover possession of said Lands, and for and in the name of said Society to lease them or any part of them to such person or persons, and for such term or number of years

and at and under such yearly and other rent, as they, or a majority of them should think fit and proper, and also to sue for, recover and receive all rents, incomes and profits which then were or should become due and owing to said Society."

The power given to the Agents to appropriate the rents and profits is as follows, to wit: There shall be appropriated such parts and shares of such incomes and profits as the Agents and Attorneys shall judge just and proper to the use and benefit of such person as may be elected and canonically consecrated to the office of Bishop over the State of Vermont, and to the use and benefit of his successor in the office of Bishop in said State, and the remaining incomes and profits of said Lands to be appropriated to the use and support of a Clergyman and his successors of the Protestant Episcopal Church in each of said Townships, when a Church shall be formed therein, and the worship of God performed according to the Liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. And in such towns where no Church shall be established as aforesaid, the remaining income, rents and profits to the support of Clergymen, building of Churches, defraying the expense of suits for the recovery of said Lands, and the incomes and profits thereof, and for such other uses and purposes as the said Agents and Attorneys shall judge will best conduce to the welfare of the Church in said State of Vermont, and to do all other acts and things concerning the premises, as fully, in every respect, as the said Society can or could do. And one or more Attorneys under them for the purposes aforesaid, to make, and again at their pleasure revoke."

After the receipt of the foregoing power of Attorney, the Agents waited until well advised respecting the title of the Society, before they commenced any suit for the recovery of the Lands. When satisfied that the fee of the Land was in the Society, and that they must recover possession of them in a Court of Law, the Agents caused an Action of Ejectment to be commenced before the Circuit Court of the United States, against the town of New-Haven, and William Wheeler, their tenant, on a lot laid to the Society Right in that Town. The object of the Agents in commencing the suit against the Town of New-Haven, in preference to any other Town, was, that they were sure the suit would be

defended to the utmost, and carried to the Supreme Court of the United States for a final decision, that all further litigation might be prevented. In this they were not disappointed. The Town of New-Haven employed counsel to defend the suit, and while pending in the Circuit Court, made application to the Legislature, who appointed an Agent to defend the suit and made a liberal appropriation of money to defray the expense. The counsel for the Society and the counsel employed by the State on the part of the defendants, united in taking such a course with the suit, that a final decision might be had therein by the Supreme Court of the United States, which should satisfy all parties in relation to the title of the Society to these Lands, and thus prevent further litigation. With this view it was agreed that a special verdict should be drawn up embracing all the material facts; and it was further agreed, that, if, on the argument of the case, before the Supreme Court, it should appear that any material facts on either side had been omitted, they should be added to the special verdict. Mr. Hopkinson of Philadelphia, argued the cause for the Society, and Mr. Webster of Boston, for the defendants, and both were satisfied that the special verdict embraced all the material facts in the case. The cause was argued in the winter of 1822, and taken under consideration by the Court until the last term of the Supreme Court, when judgment was rendered for the plaintiffs by six Judges, one Judge dissenting.

The Agents are therefore confident that all further litigation would be useless, and that it will not be necessary to resort to any further actions of Ejectment.

On the 30th of April last, the Agents met at Middlebury, to take measures for leasing the lands, and although satisfied that they could recover all the prior rents which had been paid to the towns, yet under all the circumstances it was unanimously agreed to lease them to the present tenants, without requiring the payment of the rents which had become payable before the decision of the Supreme Court was made known. That the buildings and betterments made on the lands by the tenant, should be considered as his, and the land leased to him at a rent proportioned to the value of the land, without reference to the buildings and betterments made by him; but this on condition that the tenant surrender his lease from the Town, so as to cut off all claim of his against the town.

Agents were also appointed in the different counties authorized to execute leases in the name of the Society, and it is confidently believed that leases will be taken of the lands, and no further sum expended in hopeless litigation.

In relation to the probable income of the lands, the Agents can not at present give any satisfactory information. We believe that the annual income will amount to Four Thousand, and that it will not exceed Five Thousand, Dollars.

ABRAHAM BRONSON,  
DANIEL CHIPMAN,  
ANSON J. SPERRY.

Middlebury, June 26, 1823.

Note. It is necessary to remark that the only remaining Agent, the Rt. Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, was unable to attend the State Convention, and that his signature is therefore necessarily wanting.

#### REMARKS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The resolution of the Convention, in which the Agents of the Society's Lands were called upon to furnish such statements, with regard to their proceedings, and the history and present state of those Lands, as they should deem proper to appear upon the Journals, of the Convention, did also constitute a Committee "to make such remarks on the same as may be useful to the members of the Church in this State." In conformity with that resolution, your Committee respectfully submit the following remarks:

In addition to the facts contained in the body of this report in relation to the first grant, and succeeding history of these lands as drawn from papers in possession of the Agents, there exists a variety of others, which will sufficiently explain why such grants, and to so large an extent were made. Gov. Wentworth, under whose administration they took place, was himself an Episcopalian. But at that period the number who thought like him was very small. They were emphatically a minor sect. Congregationalists made up a vast majority of the Colonists. Indeed that denomination was by the Colonial Government considered and treated as the established religion. In pursuing the reigning policy of the age to promote the settlement of the new plantations, the government foresaw that they would be chiefly settled by the prevailing de-



nomination. Whatever encouragement, therefore, was necessary in those periods for the introduction and support of religion, was less necessary for the reigning sect, than for minor ones. Their numbers constituted an obvious and sufficient resource. But it was presumed that Episcopalians would not be easily induced to remove far back into the remote settlements, without some reasonable hope and strong encouragement that they would be able to maintain the ministry and services to which they were so strongly attached. What expectations were wanting from their numbers, needed to be supplied in some other way. Accordingly, whilst only one right of land was given to the first settled minister, who, it was foreseen, would commonly be a Congregationist, two rights were granted to Episcopalians, one, for a Glebe, and the other for the benefit of the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

The first right, in most cases, fell into the possession of the ruling denomination; and as it became, in fee, the property of the first settled minister, appears to have answered the very purpose which the grantors expected and designed.

And under the expectation that the other rights would finally enable them to support thier own ministers and services, several Episcopalians were induced to remove into the new Townships. But owing to a variety of causes, their hopes have been deferred, baffled and nearly destroyed. And the posterity of those persons who were induced to move into a region so remote from the field of Episcopal Ministrations are reduced to depend for the supply of them, upon their own exertions, and the small remnant of property which had at length been recovered. And it is presumed that no objections will be urged against their receiving possession of this property, since every other public right has been secured to its designated use and employment.

But if any such objections should be raised, it is difficult to see what they can effect. From the Report of the Agents it will be seen, that every arrangement was made to have the decision which has been given, a final one. The cause was carried to the highest tribunal, was advocated by the most able counsel, and decided, after a full investigation, by a court, the very constitution of which, places its Judges far above all personal or State influ-

ence. And in this case it is in vain to look for any sectarian prejudices, for not only the same Court, but the same Judges decided the Glebe case against the Church, by which she is forever deprived of the use of those lands, which have now given judgment in favour of the Society for propagating the Gospel.

It is presumed that no persons would be disposed to urge objections against the recovery of the Propagation Lots, if they could be made to believe that the benefits which will be derived from them in future, will be far greater than any which have been hitherto realized.

It is confidently expected that this position will appear clearly and abundantly supported by a comparison of the nature and extent of the former and future good effects resulting from the application of the avails of these lands.

No attempt will be made to undervalue or depreciate the benefits of education. Here the language of the most extravagant eulogy is scarcely the language of truth. The invaluable effects of a good education, and of the widest possible diffusion of it, are far beyond all human calculation. They are not to be made matter of cool mathematical calculation. They cannot be taken hold of, and counted and weighed. At the same time they are known by effects too mighty to be overlooked, and are felt with an energy and a blessedness which cannot be mistaken. Parents cannot see how education blesses their offspring, but they can feel, that under its influence, they are growing up to make glad their hearts. Children cannot feel the hand which is moulding their characters and their hearts, but they find themselves growing up bold in thought, proud in feeling, aspiring in hope, and vigorous in enterprise. The secret influence of general and good education is noiseless and unnoticed in its progress, but its results are too mighty and too glorious to pass unregarded. The community is blessed by it, through all its limits. And our homes are made the pure, contented and happy abodes which we find them, in a great measure, by means of the education which has exalted their inmates.

But are these blessings to be compared with those which flow from the diffusion of Christian knowledge and piety? Separate the ingredients of a nation's knowledge, from the ingredients of

a nation's morality, and what is their real estimation? They will prove the materials of ruin and desolation. Clear heads are dangerous pioneers to bad hearts. Religion alone can sanctify knowledge, and make her the handmaid of happiness. Politicians are mistaken when they refer our civil and social advantages chiefly to the diffusion of knowledge. It is much more fairly ascribed to the influence of religion. It is this which has prevented the curses which are inseparable from a state of intellectual culture, if moral culture does not keep pace with it. Intelligence elevates the character, but religion preserves it when thus elevated, pure and refined, and pre-eminently happy.

Other securities were provided for the diffusion of the less valuable of these blessings. The lands in question were consecrated to the higher and better purpose. For many years they have been diverted from their designated and proper channel, and it is highly satisfactory to the friends of the Church, that although they have not been suffered "to make glad the city of our God," they have been watering a fair garden, and maturing valuable fruits. And on the other hand they cannot be brought to believe that good men will resist, the application of these lands to the high uses of Christianity upon the pretence that it will be robbing the State of a great benefit. Surely the good sense and the happy experience of the people of Vermont will not suffer their schools to languish because lands to which they had no legal right are withdrawn from them. They cannot be so ungrateful and unreasonable as to charge upon Episcopalians the fault of any injury which Schools may suffer from giving up an income to which their claim was unrighteous and illegal?

We are bound, therefore, to believe that new efforts will be made in behalf of Schools, and in addition to the blessings which the State will derive from their increased prosperity, it will find its moral and religious character very much elevated and improved by the labours of those Clergymen, whom these funds will support. The sum of good will thus be greatly increased; and the community will receive unexpected benefits from a decision which some affect to believe will be a great disadvantage to it.

The grantors of the public rights appear to have been impressed with a very correct sense of the general advantages of both these

methods of diffusing knowledge, and to have given no very equivocal expression of their estimate of the value of the one method above the other, when they assigned one right to schools, and three to the support of religion. In the course of events, two of these have been secured for the benefit of schools, and one for the use of a minister. Now if it were a question with the community at large how the remaining right should be disposed of, we cannot conceive that it would completely reverse the decision of those excellent men, by giving three rights to the less valuable object, and one only to religion; more especially as the doing of this would divest one denomination of Christians of two portions of land intended for them. It would surely seem to your Committee that all may rest contented in the present equal division of these rights, between these invaluable objects.

These hopes may be rendered less sanguine, by the objection that the prejudices and partialities of the people are such that they will not attend the ministrations of the Episcopal Clergy. Still there are some few individuals scattered in almost every town, who decidedly prefer that mode of discipline and worship. And in a region which boasts of perfect toleration, it ought certainly to give general satisfaction and pleasure, that any part of our population will at length have it in their power to worship God, according to the dictates of their own consciences. But your Committee are unwilling to believe that the alleged prejudices are so strong. They would deem it highly uncharitable, and would be exceedingly sorry to believe, that a Church whose doctrines are so Scriptural and pure, whose government is so excellent and ancient, whose services are so devotional and sublime, can be the object of such extreme dislike that people will not attend upon its ministry! They are persuaded, that the more the services of the Church are known, the better her doctrines are understood, and the oftener her ministry is attended, the less will prejudice have to say against it. They cannot help thinking and maintaining that the Episcopal Church in this country and in England, possesses, on the ground of learning and piety of their Clergy, and the abundance of their zeal and good works, in the Bible and Missionary cause, a claim upon the good feelings of Christian people, which will forbid them to avoid or oppose the Clergymen who may minister in Vermont.



But it may still be insisted that such are the existing partialities and prejudices in the State, that the Episcopal Clergy will not find congregations. If we are compelled to believe it, who are in fault? If the people will not allow themselves to be relieved from a part of the expense of supporting Clergymen—if they refuse to hear those who are sent among them by means of the avails of the Church lands, are Episcopalians to blame? Is the opprobrium to be cast upon them of depriving the State of great and extensive benefits? Most assuredly if the people of the State do not derive the greatest benefit from the expected application of the property, which has hitherto gone to the support of Schools, it will be owing to a cause which Episcopalians, more than any other persons will have reason to deplore.

It is very natural to presume, that amongst the variety of remarks which the recovery of the “Propagation Lots” will call forth, the motives and designs of Episcopalians will be subjected to animadversion and censure. It becomes their duty, therefore, if they are able, to vindicate their motives and intentions. And nothing can be easier than to set them above the reach of reasonable suspicion or reproach.

It surely can scarcely be objected against a man that he has been endeavoring to secure what he really believed was his honest right! Episcopalians have all along been persuaded that their claim to the use of these lands was unquestionable. The most eminent jurists advised them to prosecute those claims, confidently predicting ultimate success. And the Society in England gladly relinquished to them their title, and delegated to them their powers. Is it surprising then, or blame-worthy, that they have made an attempt at securing such a valuable extent of property? Would they have been doing their duty either to themselves or posterity, if they had suffered these rights to have fallen into neglect and forgetfulness? And especially when the condition and relative circumstances of Episcopalians are regarded—when it is recollected that they are a scattered and opposed people—that they can seldom collect numbers sufficient to support a minister—that they are warmly attached to very peculiar rites and observances, which none but their own Clergy can administer,—can it excite surprise, or incur blame, that they have exerted

themselves to secure a provision for their Ministers, which will in some degree obviate the difficulties resulting from their small numbers, and scattered situation? In such a case, is there a man living, or a society existing, that would not have been as active and energetic as the Episcopalians are stated to have been?

Again, certain views have been presented of the benefits which not only Episcopalians, but the community at large, it is hoped, will derive from the recovery of these lands. Now Episcopalians are fully persuaded of the correctness of these views: And there can be no doubt but their conceptions of the extent of these benefits are quite as glowing as they should be. It may safely be granted that they are highly exaggerated and extravagant—that imagination has outstripped the pace of sober calculation—and that the good which will actually be secured will not be, by any means, commensurate with their sanguine expectations.

But however false and visionary these views may prove to be, they certainly form a perfect exculpation for Episcopalians. Benevolence, consistency, and religion alike call upon them to exert themselves very actively in securing benefits which they believe to be exceedingly great. But their views cannot certainly be considered altogether visionary. And far from being blamed for labouring to send abroad the services and ministrations of a Church, which they honour and love, and regard as a peculiar safeguard to the most precious doctrines of the Protestant faith, they should be highly commended for it.

But this point is capable of being placed in a light still more convincing. From the report of the Agents, it will be particularly observed, that the first movement towards securing the Society Lands in the United States to the Protestant Episcopal Church, did not originate with the members or friends of the Church, but with the officers of the Society. The Secretary was ordered to correspond with Episcopalians in this country, and to offer them for the support of their Clergy, the possession and use of all the property which was vested in that Society before the Revolution. It appears that they were ignorant of the extent of property which had been vested in them, but felt confident that they should still hold it, whatever might prove its amount, under the treaty of 1783. This important fact will serve several valua-

ble purposes. It will shew that the right of the Society to the lands which have recently been recovered, appeared very obvious to its officers long before it had excited any controversy. And it will exculpate the Church from any blame which might be supposed to attach to her, for prosecuting the claim which was so freely and generously resigned to her. What else could her friends have done? If they had refused the generous offer, it would most probably have been of no benefit to the State; for the Society would have prosecuted its claims in some other way, and the lands lost to the Church would not have been gained by the community. But they were not so unwise and ungrateful as to disregard the noble propositions of the Society. They thankfully received the gift, and set themselves diligently at work to derive the utmost benefit from it. And to expect that they would have done otherwise, or to impugn their motives for doing so, is very unwarrantable, and surprising.

Your Committee cannot fail to regard the principles adopted by the Agents in relation to leasing the lands, and which they have announced in their report, as highly accommodating and liberal, calculated to leave a very favourable impression upon the minds of the people, and to quiet any needless fears by which the Tenants or Selectmen may have been excited. And they gladly embrace this opportunity of expressing their unanimous and very cordial approbation of the zeal and fidelity of the Agents in the whole management of this important business. And if their motives or proceedings are called in question, or aspersed by others, it is hoped that it will perfectly satisfy them to be assured that Episcopalians not only confide most perfectly in their integrity, but feel greatly indebted to their judicious, active, and disinterested exertions.

And your Committee, cannot close their remarks without adding a few words of caution. It is very much to be feared that the hopes which are raised by the recovery of these lands will be far too high; and that much more will be expected from the Agents than they can possibly perform. Their avails will not prove, by any means, as great as has been supposed and represented. The Parishes must not expect to be relieved altogether from taxation for the support of the Ministry. And they should be cau-

tious not to reduce it too far ; for more injury is done by raising taxes ever so little, than good, by sinking them too low, or remitting them altogether. It will be expected therefore, that the Parishes will continue to contribute to support their Ministers about in the proportion of their neighbours. And every assistance which can hereafter be afforded, the Agents will readily grant.

It is feared that expectations have been raised that the Agents will apply monies to the erection of Churches. But a moment's reflection will be sufficient to convince the friends of the Church that no appropriations can be more exhausting and ruinous. If new Churches are built, parishes who have recently erected them, may fairly expect remuneration. If they are built in one town where there are lands, the inhabitants of other towns, whether Episcopalians or not, will raise a clamour for the same privilege. And thus a fund of ten times the extent of that entrusted to these Agents, would soon be exhausted.

Each Town which settles a Minister, will have an unalienable right, after deducting expenses, to the rents of the lands in that Town for his use. If the inhabitants of such Town will erect a building for themselves, and settle a Minister, they will doubtless receive assistance, in proportion with the older parishes, and whilst they are building, perhaps in larger proportion.

Whilst, then, the members of our Communion are admonished not to suffer themselves to be deceived by any extravagant and unfounded expectations, they are called upon to exert themselves, with new and increased ardour in promoting the prosperity of the Church of their Fathers. Can we receive into our hands so rich a token of the zeal and disinterested piety of the grantors of these lands, and not feel excited to imitate them in their work of faith and labour of love? Shall we receive at the hands of a merciful God so great and such timely assistance, and not feel constrained to show our gratitude, by new and unwonted exertions in the cause of His Church?

Every noble sentiment, every grateful emotion forbids that we should do otherwise! And your Committee, therefore, would unite with you in earnest and continual prayers, to Almighty God, that He may bless and prosper us, that He may enable us to improve the means put in our hands for the advancement of His



Church, and that He may dispose the hearts of all men to assist and rejoice in her prosperity, till our Zion shall become the joy and the praise of the whole earth.

B. B. SMITH,  
D. WOOSTER,  
G. CLEVELAND.

The following passages from the Address of Bishop Griswold to the eighth Convention of the Eastern Diocese, at Windsor, in Vermont, September 25, 1823, properly form a part of the Journal for this year :

“Once more, Christian Friends, does the Lord’s goodness, in permitting the Convention of this Diocese to assemble, under circumstances of continued prosperity, and increasing hopes, demand the renewal of our gratitude and praise. The Lord’s work in our hands, in a general view, is yet advancing ; and the portion of His Vineyard, committed to our oversight and care, still enjoys the smiles of His kind protecting providence. The general state of the Churches, however, differs so little from what it was last year, that, in discharging this duty which our Canons assign me, it is not necessary to be so particular as on some former occasions. The changes, whether calamitous, or favourable, which have occurred, and those of my official transactions more generally interesting, it will be proper to notice.”

“During the last year the number confirmed in our Churches has been unusually small. We have frequent cause, and never more than on the present occasion, to notice and lament the too general neglect among our people to avail themselves of those comforting testimonials of God’s mercy and salvation so graciously offered in the ordinances of Christianity. The evil originates, no doubt, in a want of regard for its holy doctrines ; in too great indifferency respecting the *one thing needful*. At the present season, there is, generally speaking, less appearance of pious zeal and concern for the spirituality of religion, than at some former seasons ; but the Lord, we trust, has yet among us a faithful, praying people.”

“A few only have been ordained to the sacred ministry. Messrs. Elijah Brainard, Lot Jones, John West, Theodore Edson, and William T. Potter have been admitted to the order of Dea-

cons; and the Rev. Alfred L. Baury has been ordained a Presbyter. To the list of Candidates for holy orders have been added the names of Daniel L. B. Goodwin, Benjamin C. C. Parker, Charles Dresser, Joseph S. Covell, Ethan Allen, and Henry W. Ducachet."

"In November last, Trinity Church, in Claremont, and St. Paul's, in which, through the Lord's goodness, we are now convened were dedicated to the service of Almighty God. The day after this Church was consecrated, the Rev. Mr. Leonard was instituted into the Parish. The services were well attended; and the kind hospitality of the people of the place added much to the satisfaction, which all seemed to enjoy. We have rarely, if ever, seen more laudable efforts of pious liberality and united zeal, than that which has added to the number of our Churches this beautiful edifice."

"The present situation of the Church in Vermont is critical, but, we trust, not unhopeful. The much lamented death of our Rev. Brother Jordan Gray, was a calamitous event. His talents seemed peculiarly fitted for building up the Redeemer's kingdom in that part of the Diocese; and in no part could his labours be more needed. Unerring wisdom has seen it most fitting to remove him from his labours, and from the world. The Rev. Mr. Beach has removed from his parishes in Franklin county, into the Diocese of Connecticut. The Rev. Mr. Brainard has officiated some time in St. Albans. Three Clergymen are much wanted in that county, and parts adjacent."

"The Parish in Berkshire have finished their Church, and, with Divine permission, it will soon be consecrated to the holy purpose for which it is erected. The parish in Bethel, also, much to their praise, have erected, and almost finished, a house for the same sacred use. The Rev. Mr. Shaw has officiated in Guilford, since November last. It gives me pleasure to add, that the Rev. Mr. Smith has taken the pastoral charge of the Church in Middlebury; and that little flock, we humbly trust, after so long struggling with adverse circumstances, will find, from happy experience, it is good to wait the Lord's time. The Rev. Alexander Jones has left the Diocese."

“It is of much importance that, where it is practicable, we obtain and establish parochial and missionary funds, and provide other means of giving a competent maintenance to those who labour in the Ministry. And it is equally important, that whatever means or funds of this nature, through the Lord’s goodness, we already possess, be managed with the utmost prudence and good economy, and applied to the best effect. Whatever has been given for any religious purpose or charitable use, should be most conscientiously applied, according to the will and intent of the pious donors. It is lamentable that even Christians, in a late, and often the last solemn act of their lives—the bequeathing of their estates to posterity; declaring to what purpose and to whose benefit those good things, which a bountiful God has committed to their stewardship, shall be applied, should so generally forget to honour their Divine Benefactor; that by so few anything should be demised to religious use. Some honourable exceptions there are of names which will long shine among the best benefactors of mankind; though dead, they yet live to do good on earth, and enjoy the fruit of it in heaven. Is it not strange, or rather extremely inconsistent, that God’s people, who should honour Him with their substance, and with the first fruits of all their increase, should forget Him in that awful moment—its last distribution?—that so many Christians had rather that their large fortunes should be spent in luxury and dissipation, than in administering to famished souls the bread of life!—that their estates should be applied to the ruining, rather than to the saving mankind. Certainly the cases are not few to which these reflections may justly be applied; and are more numerous, we may well fear, in our Church, than in any other.”

“Our business is, however, not to judge others, but to take heed to ourselves. Let us cherish a grateful remembrance of those who have remembered Zion. There are more than one or two places in this Diocese in which Churches exist and flourish, in consequence of the pious benefactions of individuals. But the highest praise we can bestow upon their memories, is a faithful discharge of our trust, applying the avails of their liberality to the honour of God, and to the promotion of pure and undefiled religion.”

“In this State, in which we are now convened, a trust of no inconsiderable importance (far less, indeed, than report has declared, but yet something considerable,) and, of course, of no small responsibility, is likely to devolve on some of us. This property, if carefully managed, and justly and conscientiously applied, according to the intention for which it was reserved, will be a very great blessing to the publick; to the people generally. For their temporal wants mankind are sufficiently careful and diligent in making provision.”

“But money may be given with pious liberality, and for the best of purposes, and yet, through carelessness, or ill management, the noble intention of the donor be defeated. And there is too much reason for fearing that the improper uses sometimes made of money given for religious use, and the selfishness, and avaricious cupidity which it excites, have deterred, and continue to deter, others from the like liberality. Such misapplication of funds given for religious use is more than unjust; it is sacrilegious. Let it by us be religiously avoided. What may be our temporal interest, or what we may most desire or approve is of no consideration. Conscientiously and in the fear of God, we are to consider ourselves as stewards to whom a trust is committed, never forgetting that ‘it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful.’ Whatever of this nature may be intrusted to our care, let us, as the Lord shall give us wisdom, manage and apply with all possible prudence and fidelity, and with a sacred regard to the donor’s intention; to the honour of God and to the best good of mankind.”

“Though the care and appropriation of the lands given for the benefit of the Church in this State, do not properly appertain to this Convention, it is a subject in which we are all, as Churchmen and Christians, concerned; and it is evidently fitting that the subject should be mentioned on this occasion. So far as the providence of God, and the laws of our country shall intrust the avails of these lands to our management, let us faithfully discharge the trust. Due regard should be had to the equitable claim of individuals: whatever rents may be realized, should, with the utmost prudence and economy, be appropriated for the benefit of the people of this State; and, as far as practicable, to the use of



the people in the towns where the lands are. No part of the funds should be used for erecting houses for publick worship; for houses will decay, and funds, so expended, will, in most cases, be lost. To which we may add that there is no part of religious expenses, which the people can with more convenience, and do more willingly, take upon themselves, than building their own Churches. So far as my advice and influence will avail, these funds will be employed in teaching the doctrines, and administering the holy ordinances of the blessed Redeemer. The doctrines which we teach are not, and our manner of teaching should show that they are not, the doctrines of a sect, or of any popular reformer. Except we depart from the standards of our Church, we will preach no other faith than that which was 'once delivered to the saints,' and has since by Christians been most generally received. We adhere to that order of church government, which we verily believe to be primitive and apostolick; and which has most generally prevailed in all the ages of Christianity. Our Liturgy, in its language, its sentiments, its doctrines, its adaptation to social worship, and its suitableness to inspire and express rational and fervent devotion, is, to say the least, as near perfection as human effort has ever yet arrived. With such advantages, great and without excuse must be our negligence, if the funds intrusted to our care, do not, to the utmost of their amount, confer the greatest of blessings upon the people of this State."

"And let us lift up our hearts in prayer, and unite our voices in praise and thanksgiving to Him, whose preserving mercy has conducted us in safety through the perils of another year; whose good providence has caused us to assemble again in this place; and under circumstances how different from those in which we met here seven years ago!"

"To Him, to the God of our salvation, be rendered glory and eternal praise." *Gospel Advocate*, vol. iv, pp. 9—19.

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The following amendments of the Constitution of the Eastern Diocese were made by the Convention at Windsor, Sept. 24th. 1823. As these amendments will affect the action of the Convention in this State; they should be here noticed:

“Voted, That the alteration in the second Article of the Constitution, that the words ‘in each of the States by rotation’ be struck out, and the words ‘such place as shall be agreed upon at the preceding convention’ be inserted, which alteration was proposed at the last meeting of this Convention, be, and the same is hereby adopted.”

“Voted, That the alteration proposed at the last meeting of this Convention in the same Article, that after the words ‘lay delegate’ the words ‘or delegates not exceeding three,’ be inserted, be, and the same is hereby adopted.”

“Voted, That the alteration of the 10th Article of the Constitution, proposed at the last meeting of this Convention, that the word ‘biennial’ be struck out, and the word ‘annual’ inserted, be, and the same is hereby adopted.” *Gospel Advocate* vol. iii, p. 345.

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As the case of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts vs. the Town of New-Haven and William Wheeler has been so often referred to in the foregoing Journal of the Convention, it may be well to give here some account of it and a synopsis of the Opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States, delivered in February 1823 by Mr. Justice Washington.

This case came before the Court upon a certificate of a division in opinion of the judges of the circuit court for the district of Vermont. It was an action of ejectment brought by the plaintiffs against the defendants, in that court. The material facts, upon which the question of law arose, were stated in a special verdict, and are as follows :

By a charter granted by William III., in the thirteenth year of his reign, a number of persons, subjects of England, and there residing, were incorporated by the name of “The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts,” in order that a better provision might be made for the preaching of the Gospel, and the maintenance of an orthodox clergy in the colonies of Great Britain. The usual corporate powers were bestowed upon this society, and, amongst others, it was authorized to purchase estates of inheritance to the value of two thousand pounds, per annum,

and estates for lives or years, and goods and chattels, of any value. This charter of incorporation was duly accepted by the persons therein named; and the corporation has ever since existed, and now exists, as an organized body politic and corporate, in England, all the members thereof being subjects of the king of Great Britain.

On the 2d of November, 1761, a grant was made by the governor of the province of New-Hampshire, in the name of the king, by which a certain tract of land, in that province was granted to the inhabitants of the said province, and of the king's other governments, and to their heirs and assigns, whose names were entered on the grant. The tract so granted was to be incorporated into a town, by the name of New-Haven, and to be divided into sixty-eight shares, one of which was granted to "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." The tract of land thus granted, was divided among the grantees by sundry votes and proceedings of a majority of them; which, by the law and usage of Vermont, render such partition legal. The premises demanded by the plaintiffs, in this ejectment, were set off to them in the above partition, but they had no agency in the division, nor was it necessary, by the law and usage of Vermont, in order to render the same valid.

On the 30th of October, 1794, the legislature of Vermont passed an act, declaring that the rights to land in that State, granted under the authority of the British government, previous to the Revolution, to "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," were thereby granted severally to the respective towns in which such lands lay, and to their use forever. The act then proceeds to authorize the selectmen of each town, to sue for and recover such lands, if necessary, and to lease them out, reserving an annual rent, to be appropriated to the support of schools. Under this law, the selectmen of the town of New-Haven executed a perpetual lease of a part of the demanded premises, to the defendant, William Wheeler, on the 10th of February, 1800, reserving an annual rent of five dollars and fifty cents; immediately after which, the said Wheeler entered upon the land so leased, and has ever since held the possession thereof. Similar donations were made, about the same time with the above

grant, to the plaintiffs, of lands lying within the limits of Vermont, by the governor of New-Hampshire, in the name of the king; but the plaintiffs never entered upon such lands, nor upon the demanded premises, nor in any manner asserted a claim or title thereto, until the commencement of this suit.

Upon this special verdict, the judges of the court below were divided in opinion upon the question, whether judgment should be rendered for the plaintiffs or defendants, and the question was thereupon certified to this court.

Mr. Hopkinson argued the case for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Webster for the defendants.

The following is a synopsis of the opinion of the court:

A Corporation for religious and charitable purposes, which is endowed solely by private benefactions, is a private eleemosynary corporation, although it is created by a charter from the government.

The capacity of private individuals, British subjects, or of corporations, created by the Crown, in this country, or in Great Britain, to hold lands or other property in this country, was not affected by the Revolution.

The proper courts in this country will interfere to prevent an abuse of the trusts confided to British corporations holding lands here to charitable uses, and will aid in enforcing the due execution of the trusts; but neither those courts, nor the local legislature where the lands lie, can adjudge a forfeiture of the franchises of the foreign corporation, or of its property.

The property of British corporations, in this country, is protected by the sixth article of the Treaty of peace of 1783, in the same manner as that of natural persons; and their title, thus protected, is confirmed by the ninth article of the treaty of 1794, so that it could not be forfeited by any intermediate legislative act, or other proceeding for the defect of alienage.

The termination of a treaty, by war, does not divest rights of property already vested under it.

Nor do treaties, in general, become extinguished, *ipso facto*, by war between the two governments. Those stipulating for a permanent arrangement of territorial, and other national rights are, at most, suspended during the war, and revive at the peace, unless



they are waived by the parties, or new and repugnant stipulations are made.

The act of the Legislature of Vermont, of the 30th of October 1794, granting the lands in that State, belonging to "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," to the respective towns in which the lands lie, is void, and conveys no title under it. 5 Curtis, 483-494. (8 Wheaton, 464.)

The General Assembly of Vermont, at the session thereof in the Fall of 1823 passed the following Resolution, having respect to the foregoing decision, and to what further means the ingenuity of counsel could devise to impoverish the Church :

"Resolved, That the Governor and Council concurring herein, that his excellency, the Governor of this State be requested to make satisfactory inquiry of the counsel, employed by the State, to defend the suit against New-Haven, lately determined before the supreme court of the United States; or in any other way, he shall deem expedient, to ascertain the true situation of the rights of land, originally granted in this State, 'for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts;' and if said determination settles the title to said rights, in every respect; and to communicate the result of said inquiry to the next session of the Legislature.—Concurred Nov. 3. 1823." Acts of the Legislature of Vermont, 1823, p. 31.

## 1824.

BETHEL, Wednesday, June 23d, 1824.

This being the day designated by the Constitution for the Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, of the State of Vermont, the Right Rev. Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, a number of Clergymen and Lay Delegates from several of the Churches in this State assembled at 9 o'clock, A. M. in Christ Church, Bethel.

Present :

Right Rev. ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD, President ex officio.  
Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Bethel and Bethesda Churches, *Arlington*, and Zion Church, *Manchester*.

Rev. GEORGE LEONARD, Rector of St. Paul's Church, *Windsor*.

Rev. BENJAMIN B. SMITH, Rector of St. Stephen's Church,  
*Middlebury*.

Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburne*.

Rev. ELIJAH BRAINARD, Deacon, Missionary.

Rev. SAMUEL B. SHAW, Deacon, Minister of Christ Church,  
*Guilford*.

The following gentlemen presented their Credentials as  
Lay Delegates, and took their seats :

CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD:

DANA HYDE.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

DUDLEY CHASE,                      THOMAS RUSSEL,  
SALMON C. COTTON.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY:

GEORGE CLEVELAND,              DORASTUS WOOSTER.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD:

JAMES HAWLEY.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

LUKE DEWING.

UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY:

RUFUS SMITH.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY:

PHILO HOSFORD.

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET:

DANIEL FITCH.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS:

RAYMOND HOTCHKISS.

The Rev. Joel Clap was appointed Secretary.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Bronson, Resolved, That visiting Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who

may be present during the session of this Convention, be admitted to honorary seats in the same.

The Rev. Nathan B. Burgess, from the Diocese of Connecticut, and the Rev. Palmer Dyer, Deacon, from the Diocese of New-York, accordingly appeared and took their seats.

The Parochial Reports being called for, the following were presented and read :

**BETHEL AND BETHESDA CHURCHES, ARLINGTON.**

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 5 ; Marriages, 5 ; Funerals, 9 ; Communicants, 80.

**ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.**

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 1 ; Marriages, 1 ; Funerals, 5 ; Communicants, 35.

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, SANDGATE.**

ABRAHAM BRONSON, MINISTER.

Communicants, 31.

**TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET.**

PALMER DYER, MINISTER.

This Parish was reorganized on the 9th of December, 1823. The number of Communicants is about fifteen. Within a fortnight after the Minister had the pleasure of assisting at the reorganization of this Church, he was called to mourn, with his brethren, over the grave of the Senior Warden, one of its founders and supporters.

The Church lands in this town are valuable. The town, however, is yet unwilling to surrender its claims ; so that we do not at present derive any benefit from them. The avails of them are much wanted, and depended upon, by our few Churchmen, to enable them to support the administration of Christian and Apostolic ordinances.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS.

PALMER DYER, MINISTER.

On the 27th of April in the present year, I had the pleasure to assist in reorganizing the Church in Wells, named St. Paul's, as will appear from the Certificate this day presented by the Lay Delegate. Burials, 1; number of Communicants about 20.

## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

S. BRENTON SHAW, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 2; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 5; Communicants, 46; Families which regularly attend Church about 70; Sunday Scholars, in both Churches, 52.

This Parish has suffered during the past year from removals, and feels severely the pressure of the times. Its trust, however, being in the Great Head of the Church, and continuing firm "in the unity of the faith and in the bonds of peace," its prospects are by no means discouraging. The congregation at the West Church has materially increased during the past year, while none have withdrawn from the East, except those who have removed to other places. Arrangements have been made to procure a parsonage house during the present season.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

From June, 1822 to June 1823, 7 Baptisms; 2 Burials; 1 Marriage. From June, 1823 to June, 1824, 3 Baptisms; 1 Burial; 2 Marriages, and two persons confirmed.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WEATHERSFIELD.

GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

One Baptism.

## ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

BENJAMIN B. SMITH, RECTOR.

During the past year the external circumstances of this Parish have not essentially changed. It is hoped that a gradual and



permanent improvement has taken place; precisely such as might have been expected in the ordinary course of Providence, though by no means as conspicuous and striking as has been earnestly implored as a special favour from God. Baptisms since the last report, but four; and Funerals only two. The number of Communicants, by means of the addition of two new members, the return of several to the village, and the accession of others who had been elsewhere communicants, has increased to nearly forty. The Sunday School and Bible Classes excite interest and promise to be useful. One favorable indication ought thankfully to be noticed. It does not indeed relate, as devoutly could be wished, to the most important of all subjects, still it is gratifying to perceive an increased disposition to examine the claims, and prize the excellencies of the Episcopal Church.

The demand for tracts, and for more elaborate works, in relation to its distinctive principles is very great, and has evidently increased; and in the most unexpected quarters, an attachment to its Liturgy has been discovered. We have good reason therefore to hope, that God is beginning at least, to give us favour in the sight of the people, and we trust it will prove to have been in richest love to their souls.

### TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 5, infants 7) — 12; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 71.

The state of this Parish presents no peculiarly interesting feature. The congregation has been gradually increasing, and it is hoped that God has, in some measure, blessed the means of grace, to the advancement of pure and undefiled religion among the people.

### CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms (adults 2, infants 10) — 12; Funerals, 1; Communicants, 32.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms, infants, 2; Communicants, 29;

## —— CHURCH, ENOSBURGH.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Communicants, 10.

These Churches have been destitute of the regular and stated services of a Clergyman since the much lamented death of the Rev. Mr. Gray. Divine Service has been regularly conducted by Lay Readers, in the two former, during the whole period, except when occasionally supplied by a Clergyman, and recently in the latter, and we have reason to believe that the Lord has in some degree blessed the same.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms, (adults, 1, infants, 8) 9; Communicants, 68.

With a very commendable zeal, the members of this Parish have, at the expense of very great exertion, completed the Church edifice in which we are now assembled; in which the services of the Church are regularly performed, by a Lay Reader, whose labour of love has been richly repaid by the constant, though gradual increase of the Congregation, and as we fondly hope, the spiritual condition of the Parish is improving.

The Rev. Mr. Brainard has occasionally officiated in this Church during the past season.

The Rev. Mr. Burgess, from the Diocese of Connecticut, has kindly officiated two Sundays, and assisted on the third.

The situation of these vacant Parishes presents a very powerful appeal to the missionary spirit of the friends of our Church in this State.

## UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

JOHN RICHARDSON, WARDEN.

Funeral, 1 child; Communicants, 13.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

JAMES HAWLEY, LAY READER.

Communicants, 62; additions within the past year, 2, one by removal.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

JOHN S. GALLUP, SOCIETY CLERK.

The state of this Church is about the same as last year.

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The following Committees were appointed :

STANDING COMMITTEE:

Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. George Leonard, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith and Rev. Joel Clap.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE:

Hon. Daniel Chipman, Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard, Dorastus Wooster and Joshua Isham, Esqrs.

On motion, the following amendment to the Constitution, proposed at the last annual meeting of the Convention was adopted :

After the word "Convention," in the second line of the fourth Article in the printed copy, to strike out the words, "and when there is to be a session of the General Convention within the ensuing year," and insert the word "also." After the words "delegation shall," in the fourth line, to insert the word "annually." Also, in the fifth line, after the words, "this State in" to strike out the words "that body, also as long as this State shall belong to the Eastern Diocese, a delegation shall be appointed to attend each Diocesan Convention at the next preceding annual Convention, or at some meeting specially warned for that purpose," and insert the words "the General Convention." Also in the 11th line of said Article, to strike out the words "or Diocesan."

The following Report was received, read and accepted :

The Committee appointed at the last Convention “to report a uniform mode of election of Lay Delegates from the several Parishes in this State to its annual Convention, and also a form of certificate of said election,” beg leave to report, That the Lay Delegates shall in all cases either reside in the Parish which they represent, or contribute to its funds, and be chosen at some regular meeting of the Parish or Society, or at least at some meeting of the Wardens and Vestry, of which previous public notice shall have been given ; and that the form of certificate shall run in the following words, or others of similar import :

“This is to certify, That A. B. C. D. etc. have been duly appointed Lay Delegates to represent ——— Church, (Parish or Society) of ——— in the next State Convention to be holden in ——— on the ——— day of ——— .” Which certificate shall be signed either by the Clerk of the Parish, Society, or Vestry, for the time being ——— the Rector of the Parish ——— or by one of the Wardens. All which is respectfully submitted.

BENJAMIN B. SMITH, }  
DANIEL CHIPMAN, } Committee.

The Convention adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Christ Church was then consecrated by the Right Reverend Bishop. Morning Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Bronson. The Sermon was preached by the Rt. Rev. Bishop, who proceeded to the administration of the Holy Communion, in which he was assisted by the Rev. Mr. Leonard. After which the business of the Convention was resumed.

Adjourned until 4 o'clock this evening.

Wednesday, 4 o'clock P. M. The Convention assembled for the purpose of attending Divine Service. Evening



Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Shaw, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Smith, after which the Convention proceeded to business.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Bronson, Resolved, That the next annual meeting of this Convention be holden at St. Albans.

The following Delegates to the General Convention were then appointed : The Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Benj B. Smith, Rev. Joel Clap and Rev. Sam'l B. Shaw—Clerical. Daniel Chipman, Dudley Chase, Jonathan H. Hubbard, and Dana Hyde—Laymen.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That the Agents and Attorneys of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," for the management of the Society lands in this State, be, and they hereby are requested to report to the next Convention, a full and minute account of the condition of the business and funds at their disposal.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to report to the next Convention the expediency of establishing a Contingent Fund to be at the disposal of the Convention, and the best mode of raising and proportioning said Fund.

The following gentlemen were appointed upon said Committee : Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, George Cleveland, and Rev. Joel Clap.

The Rev. Samuel B. Shaw was appointed to preach before the next Convention, and the Rev. Abraham Bronson his substitute.

On motion, voted, That the Secretary be directed to publish the Journal of the proceedings of this Convention.

Adjourned, without day.

A true copy.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

THE 4TH ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED BY THE CONVENTION ON THE 23D DAY OF JUNE, A. D. 1824.

A President, Secretary and Standing Committee shall be chosen at every annual meeting of the Convention; also the requisite Delegation shall be annually appointed to represent this State in the General Convention.

Provided, however, That no person shall be a member of the Standing Committee, or shall represent this State in the General Convention, unless he be a regular Communicant in the Church. Provided, also, That when the Bishop of the Diocese shall be present in the Convention, he shall ex-officio, be President.

The Convention may from time to time, if deemed expedient, appoint a Prudential Committee to superintend the prudential concerns of the Church.

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MEETING OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The morning after the meeting of the Convention, a few members of the Missionary Society met in Christ Church, Bethel, for the purpose of electing officers, and transacting the annual business of the Society.

With very mortifying and bitter feelings, it was observed that very few of the influential Laymen then assembled manifested sufficient interest in the Society, even to attend its hasty meeting. The business was transacted by so small a number that they did not presume to make the least change in any of its officers or arrangements. But the managers, affected to the heart at the total insensibility to this great and most desirable object, have emboldened themselves to take this method of announcing the low state of this Association, and have presumed so far as to occupy a blank page upon the Journals, with this hasty appeal to the friends of the Church, in the hope of exciting some increased degree of attention to this neglected subject. And upon the pressure of the occasion, they have resolved to adopt the following measures for carrying their purpose into effect.

1. They propose to make provisions, that for the future a Sermon shall be preached before the Society at its annual meeting,

the day after that appointed for the meeting of the Convention, and for taking up a contribution at that time for its funds.

2. They hereby appeal to their brethren in the Ministry, with the earnest request that they will take into consideration the vote of the Convention of 1822, by which they were desired to take up contributions in their several Parishes for Missionary purposes, after preaching upon the subject; and beg leave further to suggest the expediency of having these collections at the communion seasons of Christmas and Whitsunday. And they are exceedingly desirous that every communicant in the Church will feel called upon, either to save or earn a specific sum, to be consecrated more especially to this holy purpose.

3. And they hereby further intimate to the Agents of the Society in the several Parishes that they are preparing a Circular to be addressed to them, in the confident hope that they will be prevailed upon to procure a much larger number of subscribers, than has yet, from any Parish, been reported.

The Managers are impressed with the vast importance and increasing interest of the Society whose concerns they superintend, as it regards the influence which it is capable of exerting in the immediate state of our infant Church. And they would be wanting in their duty to this Society and the Church at large, if they did not earnestly call upon Episcopalians, now if ever, to exert themselves in its behalf. By prompt and vigorous exertions—by frequent and liberal contributions, the Managers will be empowered to supply the wants of many of our people, whom it would be exceedingly unfeeling to neglect. They therefore submit the case to the friends of the Church, with humble prayers that their hearts and hands may be opened on this pressing and important occasion.

Middlebury, June 29th, 1824.

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The following paragraphs in the Address of Bishop Griswold, delivered before the Convention of the Eastern Diocese held at Portland, Maine, September 29th, 1824 have respect to the Church in Vermont and belong to the Journal of this year:—

“MY FRIENDS AND BRETHREN :

The rapid course of revolving time, has again, and thus soon brought about the season most interesting to this Diocese; the meeting of its annual Convention. Once more are we called to unite in thankful acknowledgements to the Father of Mercies, that we have been preserved through the vicissitudes and perils of another year, and are permitted to assemble at this, the appointed time and place.

“My labours, of which it becomes my duty now to render you some brief account, have been no less abundant than in former years. Almost the whole of our Churches have been visited within the year; and in my visitations, I have preached from once to four times, and in the greatest part of them have administered Confirmation, and the Lord’s Supper. A short statement of what is most singular or necessary for information, will be all that it is expedient, or that you will desire.”

“After the adjournment of our last Convention, at Windsor, in Vermont, I pursued my journey to the northern boundary, and through all the western parts of that State, ‘confirming the Churches.’ Excepting a few families in Pawlet and Wells, who attend the ministrations at Granville, in the State of New-York; a few also in Sandgate, who met us at Arlington, and the Church at Guilford since visited, my tour was then extended to every Parish, however small, in that State. I received much kindness and aid from my clerical brethren, one or more of whom accompanied me, all the way, and often took a part of the services; and by the people in every Parish, and indeed, throughout the Diocese, have I been received, and treated with much kindness and hospitality. May the Lord remember them for good.”

“Saturday, the 27th of September, 1823, we reached Bethel, where I preached in the evening. The next day I preached twice; confirmed twenty-two, and gave the Communion to about sixty; which, considering how recently they had been organized as a Parish, and how shortly before there had been a Confirmation in the same place, was highly encouraging. Owing to sickness among the workmen, their new Church was not sufficiently finished for consecration; but this disappointment, as a wise and good Providence has overruled, has, we have good reason to believe,



‘turned out for the furtherance of the Gospel;’—it caused a postponement of the consecration till the meeting of the Vermont Convention at Bethel, when we had one of the most interesting seasons that I have ever witnessed. Great praise is due to the liberality and pious zeal of that people, in building a house to God’s honour, and for the love they uniformly manifest for His holy worship.’

“In the evening, we proceeded to Randolph, where I delivered a third discourse. We had a large congregation, and a very hospitable reception.”

“In pursuing our journey, we passed through Jericho, where I was for the first time informed, a Mr. Garlic, an Episcopal minister, once officiated. A remnant of his parish, it was said, yet remains; but the appointments which I had previously made, would not admit of my staying, as my desire was, to obtain more certain information.”

“In Cambridge I found a few Episcopalians; spake to them the word of God, and administered Confirmation and the Lord’s Supper. In Enosburgh, also, I was invited to preach; and there too are a few attached to our Church, from conviction of its superior excellence. This was my first visit to the two last named places; a missionary’s labours in them would be well bestowed. In no part of this Diocese, do I find the people more generally disposed to receive the pure doctrines of Christ, and to reverence the ordinances of His religion. Those ministers of Christ, whose chief desire is to build up His kingdom, and to be instrumental in the salvation of their fellow men, cannot find a more promising field for their labours, than the north-western parts of Vermont.”

“On the 2d of October, the new edifice in Berkshire was consecrated, with all the services appropriate and usual on such occasions, by the name of Calvary Church. Here, as, also, in Montgomery, are a pious, zealous people, who, since the lamented death of the Reverend Mr. Gray, have been almost wholly destitute of the Christian Ordinances. The Reverend Mr. Clap, to whose active zeal, we are much indebted, officiates a small part of the time in these, and some other vacant parishes.”

“The divisions and discouragements resulting from the late unhappy difficulties in Sheldon and Fairfield, still in some degree

remain; but we hope they are gradually subsiding. The Parish in Sheldon, have given a very pleasing evidence of returning harmony, by uniting, at the present time, in building a Church; but unhappily the parish in Fairfield, are also destitute of a minister."

"In St. Albans there is a pleasing prospect that the erection of a Church will soon be commenced. For the first time, I visited Swanton, which is but a few miles distant from St. Albans. The few Episcopalians there, have united with Christians of three other denominations, in building a house for religious worship, each denomination to have the use of it one-fourth of the time. Such a union, through the corruption of our nature, too naturally tends to disunion: God grant that this case may be an exception. These two places are also destitute of any one to 'labour in word and doctrine.' Where we should have four Clergymen constantly officiating, we have not more than one. Let us at least continue our prayers to 'the Lord of the harvest that He will send labourers into his harvest' in those parts."

"The increase of the Church in Shelburne, both in numbers and zeal gave us reason to 'thank God and take courage.' Twenty-seven presented themselves for Confirmation and a large number at the Lord's Table. Mr. Clap, had kindly accompanied me all the way from Windsor to this his Parish: but here other engagements called him another way."

"In Middlebury, through the Lord's blessing on the labours of the Reverend Mr. Smith, the prospects of the Church are brightening. In Rutland I was happy in finding that its hopes are not wholly extinguished."

"It was highly gratifying to find in Vermont, several pious young men whose views are to the sacred ministry. This is the more encouraging from the hope that they will bestow their labours in that State, where they are so much needed; and not the less certainly from the fact, that a very considerable number of the most able, and zealous of our Clergy in the United States, have originated from Vermont."

"On the 15th of June, 1824, I commenced another tour. On the 16th, I met, in Trinity Church, Boston, with the Convention of Massachusetts; and on the 23d, in company with the Rev. Mr. Leonard, of Windsor, arrived again at Bethel, in Vermont, where

we had the pleasure of meeting many friends and brethren from various parts. The 23d was one of the happiest days of my life. At the hour of nine in the morning, the Convention of Vermont met in the new Church, where already the people were assembling for the religious services which were appointed to commence at eleven. The congregation was very numerous; nearly one-half of them could not enter the Church. After it was solemnly consecrated to Almighty God, to be henceforth sacred to His Holy worship, and a Sermon was delivered, prepared for the occasion, Confirmation followed; after which a very large number united in the Holy Communion. The people appeared to be deeply interested, and were unusually attentive; and though the other services had been long, during which a great part of the people had stood, there were many more remained through the ministration of this Sacrament than the Church could contain;—a fact which authorized the belief, that something better than curiosity had detained them; and that they did ‘hunger and thirst after righteousness:’ mine chiefly was the fault, if they ‘were sent empty away.’ The Convention was adjourned to the hour of four in the afternoon, when Divine Services were again performed: Prayers by the Rev. Mr. Shaw, and the Convention Sermon by the Rev. Mr. Smith. Two couples were also joined in marriage. Bethel is one of our most important stations for a clergyman; where the labours of one duly qualified for that place, would, we may well hope, be exceedingly useful.”

“The general state of the Church in Vermont, though clouded by some serious difficulties, is such as calls for thankfulness to its Divine Head. Some new Parishes have been recently formed. Those who are already and decidedly Episcopalians, are generally and comparatively speaking, pious, exemplary Christians, and attached to the Church from sincere conviction and conscientious principles. The few ministers also, who are labouring among them are, in a large proportion, we may well believe of those, who, as St. Paul says, are ‘worthy of double honour.’ Where ministers and people unite in faith and zeal—in holiness and prayer, the Lord’s work will prosper in their hands.”

“On the 26th I reached Guilford, and the next day which was the second Sunday after Trinity, assisted by my Reverend breth-

ren, Bronson, Strong, Chase and Jones, admitted the Rev. Samuel B. Shaw, Deacon, to the Order of the Priesthood, he having a title from that parish. The services were such as are usual on the like occasions. A few only were confirmed; but a large congregation appeared to 'rejoice in the Lord,' and many of them, it was hoped, were 'filled with good things.'"

"On the 8th of August I held a confirmation in Newport and also an ordination, when Joseph S. Covell was admitted to the Order of Deacons. The day following that of his ordination, Mr. Covell set off for Vermont, where I suppose he has since officiated. On the 15th of the same month Henry W. Ducachet, M. D. was ordained, Deacon."

"The Candidates admitted in the course of the year, are Thomas S. W. Mott, Carolus C. Brainard, Southerland Douglass and Louis M'Donald."

"The whole number confirmed in the year is 552."

"Let us carefully endeavor to cultivate peace among ourselves. It is when cemented together as a band of brethren; when, banishing pride and selfishness, all mean and narrow views, we are firmly united in whatever shall honour our Divine Master, and promote true religion, that we may hope for God's blessing. Did we possess that Christian love, which ought to glow in our breasts, what would exceed the pleasure which we should feel in conversing together on these very interesting occasions! In all our deliberations and intercourse, at the present time and on all occasions, let us follow after the things which make for peace. Let nothing like party spirit be found amongst us. In order to exclude so baneful an evil, let us be very cautious how we use invidious epithets and distinctive appellations which engender strife. Let all be orthodox and all be evangelical."

"May the Lord be with us, and so inspire our counsels with wisdom, and unite our hearts in love, that both now and ever, we may do His will and promote His glory." *Gospel Advocate*, vol. v, pp. 113—119, 150—152, 181—187.

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The subject of Church property was this year brought before the Legislature by Governor Van Ness in his inaugural Speech, and received much attention.



“Under the Resolution respecting the rights of land originally granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a correspondence has taken place with the Hon. Daniel Webster, the counsel employed on behalf of the State to defend the suit against the town of New-Haven, for one of those rights, which will without delay be laid before you.” *Journal*, 1824, p. 14.

November 1st, the following communication was received in the House from his Excellency, the Governor, viz.

“MONTPELIER, Nov. 1. 1824.

SIR, — I herewith communicate to the General Assembly, copies of the correspondence with the Hon. Daniel Webster, on the subject of the land granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. I will also state for the information of the members, that the sum of nine hundred dollars has, at different times, been appropriated to defray the expenses of the suit against the town of New-Haven; and that of this sum, Mr. Edmond, the late agent of the State, has drawn from the Treasury, six hundred and fifty dollars; four hundred dollars of which have been paid to Mr. Webster, and two hundred and fifty dollars, retained by him. I find that two hundred Dollars were paid, by agreement, for the services of Mr. Webster, in attending the Circuit Court at Windsor, in May, 1820; and that he has received the same amount towards his fees for arguing the cause before the Supreme Court at Washington.

The amount which Mr. Webster still seems to consider his due, is three hundred dollars; and the sum remaining in the Treasury is two hundred and fifty dollars.

I have the honour to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. P. VAN NESS.

The HON. GEORGE E. WALES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.”

The documents accompanying the above are as follows:—

“ VERMONT EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
BURLINGTON, July 24, 1824.

SIR, — I have the honour to enclose to you a copy of a Resolution passed by the Legislature of this State, in relation to the lands originally granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and to request that you will have the goodness to communicate to me your opinion on the question proposed therein, as soon as your convenience will permit. It is important for the State to ascertain, whether any further steps can be taken to defend, what it believes to be its rights, or whether by the decision which has been made, it is precluded from any further defence.

Your absence from home, during almost the whole time since the last session of our Legislature, has been the cause of my not writing to you sooner on this subject.

I have the honour to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant.

C. P. VAN NESS.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER.

“ BOSTON, July 31st, 1824.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 24th of this month, enclosing a copy of a Resolution, passed by the General Assembly of Vermont, in October last, requesting you to make satisfactory inquiry of the counsel, employed to defend the suit against New Haven, etc. to ascertain the true situation of the rights of land, originally granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

You request of me my opinion on this question; but the question is so general, that I cannot well understand what is requested. The decision of the Court has been published, and is no doubt, in the hands of the Assembly. I have no means of knowing the opinions of the Judges, farther than that decision contains, except some slight and occasional remarks, by some of them, such as would not authorize any important conclusion to be drawn. If there be any question, of a more precise nature, in regard to which I can give any information, I shall have great pleasure in complying with your wishes.

I take this occasion to say, that my last sundry letters to the Agent of the State, on the subject of this question, were none of them favoured with an answer.

I am, Sir, with very great regard,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL WEBSTER.

HIS EXCELLENCY, C. P. VAN NESS."

"VERMONT EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
BURLINGTON, Sept. 18, 1824.

SIR :—Your letter of the 31st of July, in answer to mine of the 24th of the same month, was received some time since, and would have been before replied to, but for the delay occasioned in obtaining from the representatives of the late Mr. Edmond the letters to which you allude, as not having been answered, and which I wished to see before writing you again.

The Resolution of the Legislature of this State, a copy of which was forwarded to you, in my first letter, requires that inquiry be made, as to 'the true situation' of the rights of land in question, and also, 'whether the decision which has been made, settles the title to said rights in every respect.' And I observed that it was important for the State to ascertain, whether any further steps can be taken to defend what it believes to be its right, or whether by the decision which has been made, it is precluded from any further defence.

The particular object of my communication was to ascertain whether in your opinion, the decision of the Supreme Court, conclusively settled the principle, in relation to all those rights of land; or whether you could suggest any question, which had not been raised in the cause which has been tried, and on which you should think the State could place sufficient reliance, to justify the defence of another suit for a different right. Not being aware, Sir, that I can propose any question 'of a more precise nature,' I hope you will consider the inquiry, with this explanation, sufficiently definite, to admit of your favoring me with an answer thereto.

I would likewise request that you would have the goodness to forward to me your account against the State, that measures may

be taken for the payment of any balance that may remain due to you. The State having made, what it understood to be, the necessary appropriation, your claim was supposed to have been paid, until by an examination of your correspondence with Mr. Edmond, the fact appears otherwise.

I have the honour to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. P. VAN NESS.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER."

"VERMONT EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
MONTPELIER, Oct. 20th, 1824.

SIR:—As the session of the Legislature of this State commenced, some days since, I beg leave to request that you will have the goodness to favour me with an answer to my last letter as soon as practicable,

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. P. VAN NESS.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER."

"BOSTON, October 26, 1824.

SIR:—I am afraid that I cannot make any suggestions, at present, which would be essentially useful to the Legislature of Vermont, respecting the glebe lands. What the Court has decided appears from the case, as do also the grounds of that decision.

It is now some time since the case was argued, and my attention has not been particularly called back to it, until your communications. I wrote the former agent frequently without receiving any answer.

Upon reviewing the case, I do not find myself able to suggest any particular course, for which I would be responsible. Since the receipt of your letter, a month or two ago, I have not had sufficient leisure to consider the case maturely, and as it ought to be considered. My health has not been good, and I have spent much of the time, since my return from Washington, in travelling for its improvement. My general impression has been, that the State might adopt some mode, to assert its own right over the



lands, or to control those who hold it. But what this mode should be, requires, to confess the truth, more consideration than I have given the case.

The general idea which I entertain, is, that it is *competent* for the State authority to try the question of forfeiture, for abuse, or non-user, or for any other sufficient cause, and to pronounce a judgment of forfeiture.

As to my account, the arrangement made, was, that I was to receive five hundred dollars for attending to the cause at Washington. I received either two hundred or three hundred dollars, (I think the former, my receipt will show,) and although I believe I wrote for the rest, it was not sent. For the present I would not wish the balance sent to me.

I shall endeavour to keep this subject in my mind, and if any of your friends should be this way, before I go south, I will cheerfully give a day to a consideration on this subject.

Yours, with very true regard,

DANIEL WEBSTER.

HIS EXCELLENCY C. P. VAN NESS.

Governor of Vermont."

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The foregoing letters being read, on motion of Mr. Stephen Haight, Monkton, they were referred to a Committee of four members of the House to join such committee as the Council should appoint.

The following gentlemen were appointed on the part of the House: Titus Hutchinson, Woodstock, Heman Allen, Milton, Stuart Brown, Washington, and Wolcott H. Keeler, Chittenden. Journal, 1824, pp. 108—110, 117.

Nov. 17th, This Committee made the following report :

"TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOW SITTING :

Your Committee to whom was referred the communication of his Excellency, accompanying certain communications from the Hon. Daniel Webster, concerning the rights of land, in this State, heretofore granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, respectfully recommend the passing of the two accompanying Bills, marked A and B.

C. LANGDON, Chairman."

These two Bills—the first entitled “An Act, in addition to an act directing the mode of taking forfeitures of grants and charters,” and the second entitled, “An Act, appointing an Agent for certain purposes,” had at once the first and second reading, and, during the next day, passed through the usual stages without opposition. Journal, 1824, pp. 209, 218, 224, 225, 230.

The “Act in addition to an act directing the mode of taking forfeitures of grants and charters,” specially designed to affect the Society lands, was the following:

“*It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont*, That the provisions of the act aforesaid, shall, hereafter extend to all cases whatever relating to charters or grants of land lying in this State.” Passed Nov. 18, 1824. Acts of the Legislature of Vermont, 1824, p. 26.

The “Act, appointing an Agent for certain purposes,” was the following:

“*It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont*, That Titus Hutchinson be and hereby is appointed an Agent, with full powers to ascertain necessary facts, and procure necessary papers, to show the right this State has to take the forfeiture of the grants of the several rights of land in this State, originally granted to the Society in England for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; and if he shall conceive there is a fair prospect of obtaining a decree of forfeiture of their rights, to commence and prosecute a *scire facias* for some one right of said land, in the name of the people of this State and prosecute the same to final judgment: and a sum, not exceeding the sum of one thousand dollars, is hereby appropriated to defray the expenditures of the same; and the said Agent may draw upon the Treasurer from time to time, for the same, as may be necessary.” Passed Nov. 18, 1824. Acts of the Legislature of Vermont, 1824, p. 32.

On the same day that the foregoing Acts were passed, the following Resolution, introduced by Mr. Stephen Haight, Monkton, was also passed:

“Resolved, The Governor and Council concurring herein, That His Excellency, the Governor be and he is hereby authorized and requested to appoint some suitable person to settle with the admin-

istrator of David Edmond Esq. deceased, late Agent of this State in the suit in favor of the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts against the town of New-Haven; and to settle with the Hon. Daniel Webster, counsel in said cause; and the Treasurer of this State is directed to pay said Agent the balance of the appropriation heretofore made for that purpose: and the Agent, so to be appointed is hereby directed to make report of his doings, in the premises, to the next session of the Legislature." Journal, 1824, pp. 225, 230.

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1825.

Wednesday, June 23d, 1825.

This being the day designated, by the Constitution, for the Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, a number of the Clergy and Lay Delegates, from several of the Parishes in the State, assembled at St. Albans, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Present :

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Bethel and Bethesda Churches, *Arlington*, and Zion Church, *Manchester*.

The Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

The Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburn*.

The Rev. JOSEPH S. COVELL, Deacon, Minister of Union Church, *St. Albans*.

The Rev. BENJAMIN B. SMITH, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, *Middlebury*.

The following gentlemen presented their Credentials and took their seats as Lay Delegates :

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL :

THOS. P. RUSSELL,                      OLIVER GLEASON.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY :

ABIJAH WILLIAMS.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY:

GEORGE CLEVELAND.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn:

JOSHUA ISHAM,

TRUMAN PALMER.

ASA LYON, 2d.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON,

SAMUEL A. WILKINS.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD:

NATHAN LOBDELL,

JOHN HENDRICK,

ABIJAH HAWLEY,

EZRA STURGES.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON:

DANIEL SMITH,

LUKE DEWING.

CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE:

AMHERST WILLOUGHBY.

—— CHURCH, ENOSBURGH:

WILLIAM BARBER.

UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY;

ROSWELL CATLIN,

RUFUS SMITH.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen President, and the Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church and Candidates for Holy Orders in the same, attending upon this Convention, who are not members thereof, be admitted to honorary seats therein.

The Rev. John J. Robertson, Professor of Languages in the University of Vermont, and Mr. John Bristed, a Candidate for Holy Orders in this Diocese, appeared and took their seats.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That a Committee, consisting of three persons, be appointed, to confer with the Trustees, of the Church lands in this State,



or such of them as may be present, and make such report, to this Convention, as they shall deem expedient.

Whereupon the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee: William Barber, Amherst Willoughby and Samuel A. Wilkins.

On motion by Mr. S. A. Wilkins, Resolved, That two Clergymen be added to the Committee last appointed. Upon which resolution, the Rev. Carlton Chase and Rev. Benj. B. Smith were appointed members of said Committee.

Adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning prayer was read by Rev. Joel Clap and a Sermon delivered by the Rev. Mr. Bronson, by whom the Holy Communion was administered, after which the Convention adjourned until half past 3 o'clock this evening.

Wednesday, half past 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

On motion by the Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That in the case of parishes, destitute of officiating Clergymen, the Wardens be requested to report, annually to this Convention, the number of Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals, which may have taken place in the same; also the number of Communicants, and to state any other matters, which may tend to throw light on the state and prospects of the same.

The following Parochial Reports were then presented and read:

BETHEL AND BETHESDA CHURCHES, ARLINGTON.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 2, children 5) — 7; Marriages, 5; Funerals, 7; Communicants, 85.

In this Parish, besides a regular Lecture on Sunday evening, the Rector has, for the winter past, steadily employed four evenings in each week in explaining the Scriptures to the youth, and such as chose to attend, and has become so convinced of the

usefulness of the exercise, that he intends resuming it again, when the evenings shall be of sufficient length.

### ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults) 2; Marriages 1; Funerals 3; Communicants, 35.

In this Parish are a few Sunday Scholars, and during the past winter, evening Lectures have been held, about once a week, for explaining the Scriptures. In order to induce a more full attendance at these Lectures, as well as to diffuse useful information, a large stock of religious tracts was procured, which were distributed among the youth, to be returned at the next appointment and distributed again. Some measures of this kind, it is apprehended, might be useful in each of our Churches.

### ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, SANDGATE.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, VISITING MINISTER.

Communicants, 31.

In this town there is a large field for usefulness, as a considerable portion of the people are friendly to the Church, and there is no resident preacher of any kind.

### IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

CARLTON CHASE, RECTOR.

Since the last report, two-years ago, there have been baptized, (adults 2, children 14) — 16; Marriages, 2; Deaths, 4; Communicants, 30. Whole number of families within the parish limits, 40.

### CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

S. BRENTON SHAW, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 2, children 24) — 26; Marriages, 4; Burials (adults 8, children 7) — 15; Births, 19; Communicants, (added 7, died 2, removed 2) — 49; Families that attend Church, about 90; Sunday Scholars (in East Parish 50, West Parish 25) — 75.

The condition of the Church in this town, has experienced no essential change since the last report, if we may except a more general attendance of the people upon the Sabbath. Planted in the midst of the most inveterate opposition, she has to contend with numerous and powerful obstacles, but, amidst all her difficulties, has gradually increased in numbers and importance. And, while very perceptible additions have been yearly made to those who worship at her altar, we trust that she has also "grown in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

### ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

B. B. SMITH, RECTOR.

The resources and prospects of this Parish, have been blighted, in an uncommon degree, by the removal of several valuable and excellent families to a distance, and by the death of the late Daniel Henshaw, Esq., one of its confirmed and zealous friends and supporters. The depression of these deplored and afflictive visitations, is alleviated, not by the positive accession of numbers and resources, but merely, though to a very cheering extent, by the visible increase of the congregation, and the exhibition of candour and kind feeling towards the Church. Could we only have the happiness of possessing a large and commodious edifice for public worship, it can scarcely be questioned that the Parish would greatly increase. And the erection of such an house, is an object nearly as interesting to the Church generally, as to the Parish in particular. The visible increase of parochial calls and duties, will be manifest by comparing with former reports, the following details of the annual reports, from the Parish Register.

Baptisms, 9,—of which one was an adult; Funerals, 8; Marriages, 4; Communicants (3 added, removed and deceased 6)—35; Families, 30; Sunday Scholars, 35.

### TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Nothing of peculiar interest, has transpired, during the past year, in relation to this Parish. The number of Communicants has gradually increased, and although we have much reason to

take up the lamentation of the prophet, “who hath believed our report,” still in humble dependence upon the blessing of God, upon the appointed means of grace, we look forward in earnest expectation for the increasing prosperity of this portion of His Church.

Baptisms (adults 9, infants 1) — 10; Marriages, 4; Funerals, 4; Communicants, 83.

#### CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

Baptisms, 4; Marriages, 1; Communicants, 31.

#### UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

Baptisms (adults 1, infants 2) — 3; Marriages, 3; Communicants, 32.

#### CHURCH IN ENOSBURGH.

Communicants, 10.

#### CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms (adults 1, infants 9) — 10; Communicants, 68.

In each of these Parishes, excepting Enosburgh, the undersigned has officiated, during the past year, one Sunday in each two months. That under such circumstances, they should have experienced any material increase could not have been reasonably expected; still we have reason to bless God, that amid all the discouragement, resulting from a protracted painful deprivation of the regular ministrations of the Word and Sacraments of the Gospel, He has been graciously pleased to preserve them from declension.

With undiminished anxiety they are looking, as we trust, both to the Ecclesiastical Authority in this Diocese, and to the Great Head of the Church, for a provision for their spiritual hunger and thirst for the ordinances and the graces of the Gospel.

A very cheering evidence of increasing zeal in the service of God is exhibited in the recent organization of a Female Auxiliary Missionary Society in the Parish of Christ Church, Bethel, which has already contributed liberally to the funds of the Parent Society.



UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

JOSEPH S. COVELL, MINISTER.

Baptisms (1 infant and one adult), 2; Funerals, 2; Communicants (added 2), 17; Families, 12.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

JOSEPH S. COVELL, MINISTER.

Baptisms (infants), 2; Funerals, 2; Communicants (removed 4), 42; Families, 27.

CHRIST CHURCH, SWANTON.

JOSEPH S. COVELL, MINISTER.

Communicants, 5; Families, 8.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

Communicants, 69; Deaths, 2.

Mr. William Barber, in behalf of the Committee, which was appointed this morning, to confer with "the Trustees of the Church lands in this State," submitted the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the Prudential Committee annually appointed by this Convention, be directed, and they are hereby directed, to inquire into and report, at the next succeeding annual Convention, the state of the pecuniary affairs of the Church in this State. And that said Committee be and are hereby directed, to confer with the general agents of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in relation to the funds or monies, for the benefit of the Church, arising from the rents of land in this State belonging to said Society, and that the said Agents be and are hereby requested to permit said Committee to have, at all reasonable times, access to their Secretary's and Treasurer's books, to obtain such information as may be thought useful

to them in making a report of the general State of the affairs of said Church.

The Rev. Mr. Smith in behalf of the Committee appointed by the last Convention, to report to this Convention, “the expediency of establishing a Contingent Fund to be at the disposal of this Convention, and the best mode of raising and proportioning said Fund, presented the following report :

The Committee beg leave to report, that they have carefully considered the importance and expediency of providing a contingent fund, for defraying the expense of delegates to the different Conventions, and also the best way of apportioning and raising the said fund. The narrowness of our pecuniary means, and the number of Conventions, attendance upon which is to be provided for, suggested at the outset, a very formidable difficulty. They presumed however, that this Convention would not, at present, attempt to provide for the expenses, either of the State, or Diocesan Convention, but will feel reluctantly constrained to leave the former to be borne, as heretofore, by the respective delegates in attendance, and the latter, by the parishes whose Clergy or Lay Delegates may consider it expedient or necessary to attend. Your Committee in their report, have respect therefore simply to a provision for defraying the expenses of delegates to the General Convention.

As to the propriety and importance of such an arrangement it is scarcely credible that difference of opinion can exist. The vast importance of the acts of the General Convention—the operation which they have upon the remotest States in the Union, and the differences of local feeling and circumstances, render it perfectly indispensable that every portion of the Church should be duly represented. Yet of the delegation from this State, it is well known that an exceeding small proportion has hitherto had, or is likely hereafter to have, the means of bearing for themselves the expenses of attendance. Upon the Clergy it is a tax, exceedingly disproportioned to

their salaries, and upon the Laity, a contribution justly considered too oppressive. If it is any way important, therefore, that this portion of the Church should be constitutionally represented, it becomes necessary, and is indeed the dictate of common justice, to provide for defraying the expenses of the delegates. Other States have acted under the influence of these sentiments of justice and propriety, and have generously provided in such wise for the attendance of their delegates, that it is never deficient on pecuniary accounts.

The *expediency* of adopting immediate measures for effecting this reasonable and important object, has appeared to your Committee, a far more difficult point to decide. The general interests of the Church, and all our external relations, point out its high expediency. But reasons within ourselves are by no means as convincing. As yet we are scarcely able to provide for the unavoidable expenses of our local transactions. Whilst, therefore, the general councils of the Church are as well attended, and their deliberations as wisely conducted, as at present, why should we be anxious to incur expense for the sake of bearing an unnecessary and responsible part in them? When the attendance of our delegation becomes indispensable, it may be said, it will be time enough to levy contributions upon our infant Parishes, to defray their expenses.

Yet it has appeared to your Committee so important that our representation should be somewhat proportionate, and so very desirable to organize all our internal arrangements against the occurrence of possible and great exigences, that they beg leave to report favourably upon the expediency of commencing immediately a contingent Fund.

The ways and means of apportioning and raising the fund, present, after all, the most formidable difficulties. Shall it be raised by equal assessments upon the Parishes? This will bear with undue severity upon the smaller and poorer Parishes. Shall we endeavor to apportion it accor-

ding to numbers or pecuniary ability? Who shall become assessors, and will not divisions and dissatisfactions be promoted? But would there not then be reason to fear a deficiency? Shall the assessment be enforced by penalties? What have we that we can inflict, which will not do greater injury to the Church than the fund will benefit it? All these difficulties, and many more, have occurred to your Committee. No course can avoid them all. In the resolutions which they have drawn up and with which this report will be closed, they have made what has appeared to them the most cautious and judicious selection of means, and after being weighed and discussed by the Convention, it will be competent in that body to determine whether these, or others in their stead, shall be employed. Some, we trust, it will not fail to consider indispensable.

The above report having been accepted, and the resolutions with which it was concluded having undergone several amendments, they were adopted as follows :

Resolved, That immediate measures be set on foot for raising a Contingent Fund, primarily for the purpose of defraying the expenses of Delegates to General Convention.

Resolved, That it be considered the duty of the Clergy, or Wardens of the respective Parishes, on some Sunday between Easter and the second Sunday in June annually, to take up a publick contribution to constitute said fund.

Resolved, That the Secretary of Convention be the Treasurer of this Fund, which shall be controuled by vote of Convention and paid over by order of its President.

Resolved, That the surplus monies in the hands of the Treasurer of this Fund, may be disposed of by vote of Convention for other necessary or benevolent purposes, than for that above primarily designated.

The following gentlemen were elected as Standing Committee for the year ensuing :



Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Benj. B. Smith, Rev. Joel Clap, and Rev. Samuel B. Shaw.

The Rev. Mr. Bronson, one of the Agents for the Society's Lands, made the following statement, which was ordered to be entered upon the Journals of this Convention :

The Agents are, as yet, unable to report such a full and minute account of the business at their disposal, as was called for by the resolution of the last Convention. Eight suits are now in Court for the recovery of lands, which were expected to be tried at the last term ; but, in consequence of some unexpected difficulties, they are all continued. A considerable portion of the lands, probably more than one third, have been leased and are now bringing rents, to the amount of something more than one thousand dollars a year. The Attornies' charge, for carrying the first cause through the Supreme Court, has been paid, and a part of the expenses of the present suits. The Treasurer of the Agents has been directed to pay over to the different Parishes, which are supplied with Clergymen, the rents arising in their respective towns, for the time being ; and it is hoped, that each Clergyman may receive at least fifty dollars after the next meeting of the Agents, in May next. At that meeting the Agents presume they shall be able to give the Prudential Committee a full account of their agency.

On motion, Resolved, That the next annual meeting of the Convention be held at Middlebury.

The Rev. S. Brenton Shaw was appointed to preach before the next Convention, and the Rev. Carlton Chase was appointed his Substitute.

The following gentlemen were then elected the Prudential Committee : Rev. Benj. B. Smith, Hon. Dudley Chase and Hon. Horatio Seymour.

The following Delegates to the General Convention were appointed : Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Benj. B. Smith, Rev. Joel Clap and Rev. S. Brenton Shaw — Clerical ;

Daniel Chipman, Dudley Chase, Jonathan H. Hubbard and Dana Hyde—Laymen.

The Convention adjourned until 6 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, June 23d, 6 o'clock A. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

On motion, Voted that the Secretary be directed to publish the Journal of the proceedings of this Convention, and to defray the expense of the same from the Funds of the Convention.

Adjourned, without day.

A true Record.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

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The following paragraphs from the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese, delivered in St. Paul's Church, Boston, September 28th, 1825, are here appropriate.

“BRETHREN BELOVED AND CHRISTIAN FRIENDS :

Through the Lord's patient goodness, we are advanced another year in the important work committed to our hands. The view of our labours, and the present state of the Diocese, which it is my duty to lay before you, may be comprised in few words ; for my principal journey in the visitation of our Churches has, for several reasons been postponed till after the meeting of this Convention. A considerable number of them, however, have been already visited, and a very few, seventy-two only, have been confirmed. Several of our Candidates have been dismissed to other parts of our country. Those admitted during the year are, Robert B. Drane, Henry H. Oliver, Joseph H. Coit, Alexander H. Codwise, More Bingham, John Bristed, Jared Rice, Frederick C. R. Green, Gustavus A. Dewitt, and Henry Goodwin.”

“Three only, George Richardson, Thomas S. W. Mott, and Daniel L. B. Goodwin, have been admitted to the Order of Deacons ; and the Rev. Joseph Muencher, Benjamin C. Cutler and

Theodore Edson, Deacons, have been ordained Priests. The Rev. Lot Jones, the Rev. Elijah Brainard, the Rev. Jasper Adams and the Rev. John J. Robertson have taken letters dismissory from this Diocese."

"It has pleased the Father of Mercies to continue His blessing to this portion of His people; prosperity has generally attended our labours; while some few occurrences of an unpleasant nature remind us of our sins and dependence."

"There is a propriety in my observing, generally, that few things can be more injurious to the general interests of religion, or more hurtful to our Church in this Diocese particularly, than exciting sectional prejudices, and undermining that confidence which we ought to have in all our Christian brethren. Hitherto, considering that we are thinly scattered over many States, the union which a merciful God has given us, has been very remarkable, and demands our daily gratitude and praise. Let us not inconsiderately dash such a cup of blessing from our hands. Let us be sure that others have sinned against God, and that we are called to be their accusers, before we presume to *cast the stone*. Nothing is easier, if we will indulge a strong propensity of corrupt nature, from a difference of opinion in the most trivial things, than to blow up the devouring flame of a sectarian spirit. Already are heard amongst Episcopalians, the discordant sounds of party distinctions, which every friend of our Church should exercise his utmost prudence to oppose. Jealousy and crimination are the fuel which most fatally feed the flame of discord, and are the opposite of that charity which 'thinketh no evil.' So blessed are the fruits of 'a meek and quiet spirit,' we scarce need be told by the pen of inspiration, that it 'is in the sight of God of great price.' When we consider further, how powerful the *citadel* of the Christian faith is assailed, needless feuds among its defenders would seem as that infatuation which is the harbinger of ruin."

"In Vermont, the Church has still powerful obstacles to contend with; but the prospect continues to brighten, and true religion, we trust, to increase. Our Clergy are becoming more attentive to the wants of that part of the Lord's Vineyard. But nine years ago, there was not a Church edifice in that State, properly ours. Since, there have been seven already consecrated ;

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and two more—in Sheldon and St. Albans—it is expected, the Lord permitting, will, within a few days be added to their number. The Rev. Mr. Covell has officiated at St. Albans during the most of the year last past. The Rev. Mr. Olney intends soon to leave the Church in Gardner in the State of Maine. With pleasure I add, that in several parts of the Diocese are missionary societies, which merit much praise.”

“If we desire the blessing of God; if we would see our Churches increase in numbers and piety, it is of immense importance that the forms of Religion be suitably regarded in our families. Our children should not only be early dedicated to the Lord in baptism, but brought up in His nurture and admonition. Family Prayer, which we fear is much neglected, should be generally performed. They who have been baptized, should never forget that the oath of God is upon them, and what mercies were sealed to their benefit ‘by the washing of regeneration.’ And they should desire above all things, ‘the renewing of the Holy Ghost.’ By a serious consideration of the nature of Baptism, through God’s blessing, they may be prepared for Confirmation, which should never be inconsiderately received, nor too long delayed. Much injury has been done to religion, and much discredit brought upon our Church, by admitting, and even urging to Confirmation, those who have no true repentance or faith, nor any serious regard for religion. The ordinance itself which, when rightly used, is of inestimable benefit, has, in consequence of this laxity, ‘become a hissing and a by-word.’ No one need be told that Confirmation is a voluntary ratification of the baptismal covenant, and is considered by the Church as preparatory to the Lord’s Supper. Of course, what is necessary to qualify adults for Baptism and the Eucharist, is also necessary for receiving Confirmation.”

“The best we can do towards reforming the world, is to reform ourselves; to endeavour more and more to be and do whatever God requires of those who would be saved in Christ forever. If we have the spirit of Christ; if we indeed possess and feel that love for all men, which He so positively requires of His disciples, we shall naturally manifest it by doing good, as we may have opportunity, to all men, and especially to them who are of the Household of Faith.” *Gospel Advocate*, vol. v, pp. 346—355.



The following communication, report and act close up, on the part of the State, the affair of New-Haven and William Wheeler.

“IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, MONTPELIER, Nov. 7, 1825.

SIR:—I have the honour to transmit to the General Assembly a report from the Agent appointed under a resolution of the last session, to settle the claims of the Hon. Daniel Webster, and of the estate of the late David Edmond, Esq. against this State.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
THE HON. D. A. A. BUCK, C. P. VAN NESS.  
Speaker of the General Assembly.”

The report thus transmitted was as follows:

“TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:—

SIR:—In pursuance of my appointment as Agent to settle with the administrators, with the late Agent and with the counsel for this State in the suit in favour of ‘The Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, against the town of New-Haven and William Wheeler, I have settled with the administrators of David Edmond, Esq. deceased, and found a balance of *Thirty Dollars* due to them.

The account for the services and expenses of Mr. Edmond accompanies this communication.

By a reference to the correspondence of the Hon. Daniel Webster, published in the Journal of the last session of the General Assembly, it appears that there is due to him, as counsel in said suit, the sum of three hundred dollars.

In 1819, there was appropriated to defray the expenses of the above named suit, . . . . . \$ 600.00

In 1820, there was a further appropriation of . . . . . 300.00

Amounting to . . . \$ 900.00

The account of Mr. Edmond, including \$ 400 paid to

Mr. Webster, amounts to . . . . . \$ 680.00

There remains due to Mr. Webster, . . . . . 300.00

Amounting to . . . . . 980.00

From which deduct appropriation, . . . . . 900.00

Leaves abalance of . . . . . \$ 80.00  
due from the State, above the amount appropriated.

I am, with respect,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

Montpelier, Nov. 7, 1825.

NORMAN WILLIAMS.

The foregoing report having been read was referred to the Committee of ways and means. This Committee reported the following Bill Nov. 15th, which became a law Nov. 17. 1825.

*"It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That the sum of eighty dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of discharging the balance of the accounts of the counsel for the State, in the suit in favour of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts against the town of New-Haven and William Wheeler, which sum, together with the balance of former appropriations, remaining in the treasury, the Treasurer of this State is directed to pay to the Agent appointed to settle with the counsel in said suit."* Journal 1825, pp. 146, 202, 213.

Acts of the Legislature 1825, pp. 34, 35.

## 1826.

MIDDLEBURY, June 28, 1826.

This being the day designated by the Constitution of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, for the annual meeting of said Convention, the Right Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, a number of the Clergy, and Lay Delegates from several Parishes in the State, assembled at Middlebury, at 9 o'clock, A.

Present :

Right Rev. ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD, D. D., President *ex officio*.

Rev. MOORE BINGHAM, Deacon, Minister of Grace Church, *Sheldon*, and Trinity Church, *Fairfield*.

Rev. JOHN BRISTED, Deacon, residing in *Middlebury*.

Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Bethel and Bethesda Churches, *Arlington*, and Zion Church, *Manchester*.

Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburn*.

Rev. LOUIS M'DONALD, Deacon, Minister of the Churches  
in *Rutland*.

Rev. SYLVESTER NASH, Minister of Union Church, *St. Albans*.

Rev. S. BRENTON SHAW, Rector of Christ Church, *Guilford*.

Rev. BENJAMIN B. SMITH, Rector of St. Stephen's Church,  
*Middlebury*.

The following gentlemen presented their Credentials, and  
took their seats as Lay Delegates :

CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE:

DAVID COBURN.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON:

LUKE DEWING.

CHRIST CHURCH, SWANTON:

\*SAMUEL HOFFMAN.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

ORANGE FERRIS.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn:

JOSHUA ISHAM,                      GEORGE CLAYES,  
TRUMAN PALMER.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY:

DANIEL CHIPMAN,                      GEORGE CLEAVELAND,  
ROBERT B. BATES.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

DUDLEY CHASE,                      THOMAS P. RUSSELL,  
OLIVER GLEASON.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK:

\*ROYAL BLAKE.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, RUTLAND:

\*JONATHAN C. THRALL.

\* These Parishes were received into connection with the Convention at  
this time.

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET :  
DANIEL FITCH.

—— CHURCH, ENOSBURGH :  
JOHN FRAZER.

Rev. Joel Clap was chosen Secretary.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and candidates for Holy Orders in the same, attending on this Convention, who are not members thereof, be admitted to honorary seats therein ;

Whereupon, Rev George Leonard, Rev. Palmer Dyer and Mr. Jones, a candidate for Holy Orders, appeared and took their seats.

On motion by Mr. Chase, Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed, whose duty it shall be to nominate the Standing and Prudential Committees and a Delegation to the General Convention, and report to the Convention this evening.

Adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning prayer was conducted by Rev. Joel Clap, and a Sermon preached by Rev. S. Brenton Shaw ; after which, the Holy Communion was administered by Right Rev. Bishop Griswold.

The Convention resumed business according to adjournment.

Rev. Carlton Chase, in behalf of Rev. Palmer Dyer, presented to the Convention three printed Journals of the Proceedings of the Convention of the Diocese of New-York.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be and they hereby are returned to Rev. Palmer Dyer for the aforesaid donation.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock, this evening.

Wednesday, June 28th, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.



The following Parochial Reports were then presented and read :

BETHEL AND BETHESDA CHURCHES, ARLINGTON.

J. H. COIT, MINISTER.

Communicants, 84, including thirteen additional members; Baptisms, 13, of which five were adults; Funerals, 7.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 1; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 39.

The prospects of this Parish are more encouraging than they have been for several years past. The Rector has lately removed his residence into it, and is now bestowing upon it his whole services. There is an increasing attendance upon public worship, and favourable indications as to the progress of real piety. There has been an addition of five to the list of Communicants; and some others are expected to join soon. The Bible Class and Sunday School are small, but are uniformly attended to in the intermission on Sundays.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, SANDGATE.

A. BRONSON, VISITING MINISTER.

Communicants, about 30.

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET.

PALMER DYER, MINISTER.

Communicants (added 12), 27.

The members of this Society are firm and devoted Churchmen. The cause of Christ, and the concerns of our Apostolic Church, are prosperous.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, CENTREVILLE, RUTLAND.

LOUIS M'DONALD, MINISTER.

Baptisms — infants 6, adults 4; Communicants, 12.

The prospects of this Parish are somewhat disheartening, owing to its recent formation, and the comparatively small number of those who are firmly attached to its interests, and anxious for its prosperity. The Communion has been twice administered during the past year, and services kept up between this and the East Parish alternately since February last.

### CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

S. BRENTON SHAW, RECTOR.

With the exception of sundry changes occasioned by deaths removals, and accessions, the two congregations which compose this Parish have experienced no sensible alteration since the last meeting of the Convention. It is worthy of note, however, that although one hundred and twenty-five persons, belonging to the Parish, have either removed or deceased within four years past, no perceptible diminution has taken place in our worshipping assemblies; and the inference is obvious, that the prejudices which threatened the extinction of this infant Church, are giving way, and that there exists among the people a growing attachment to our "form of sound words," and to the "faith once delivered to the saints." The Records present the following memoranda for the past year.

Baptisms, (adult 1 children 4)—5; Funerals 9; Marriages 15; Births 16; Communicants (added 7, removed and deceased 4) 52. Families attending Church, between 80 and 90; Sunday Scholars in both Schools about 70.

### IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

C. CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adult 1)—10; Marriage, 1; Death, 1; Communicants, 35; Sunday Scholars, 35.

The Rector considers the condition of this Parish highly prosperous. Important additions have been made to the Communion; the Church has been much improved, and the choir furnished with an Organ.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

There have been, since the last report was made, two years ago, 7 Baptisms, 4 Marriages, and 5 Burials. Communicants, 35.

## ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

B. B. SMITH, RECTOR.

Immediately after the last Convention, efforts were made to ascertain the disposition and means of the people in reference to erecting a substantial church edifice. By the munificence of one individual, and the anticipated benevolence of distant friends, it was thought that a sum might be raised, in addition to the very limited means of the Parishioners themselves, sufficient for this purpose. An appeal to the liberality of Episcopalians, in several of our principal towns and cities, has accordingly been made, and about six hundred dollars have already been raised. The sum is not yet equal to our necessities. For the stone edifice, which is now in a state of considerable progress, will be far beyond the means of the few Episcopal families in the village, though no ways larger or more expensively finished than the peculiar circumstances of the place necessarily require. It is hoped that the considerations urged in our distant application, will still procure for us a sum sufficient for the end proposed. Before the meeting of another Convention I trust the building will be so far completed as to allow its being used for the purposes of publick worship.

During a small part of the year past, some of the congregation committed to my charge have manifested a measure of that serious interest in divine things, which I pray may ever abound amongst them; and the preaching of the word, for a while, was received with much solicitude. Seriousness, then first commenced, has since, in some few cases ripened, I trust, into real piety.

To the Communion, 14 have been added, which, counterbalanced by some removals and other fluctuations, will leave the whole number of Communicants about 46. Of 16 Baptisms, 4 were of adults. There have been but 6 Funerals, and only 1 Marriage. The number of Families accounting themselves settled Parish-

oners, is not known to have increased. And with regret I conclude by representing the Sunday School as in rather a declining condition.

### UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

JOHN RICHARDSON, WARDEN.

Baptisms (adults 4, children 3,) — 7; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 18.

### CHRIST CHURCH, SWANTON.

SAMUEL HOFFMAN, WARDEN.

Communicants, 7.

### GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

MOORE BINGHAM, MINISTER.

Funeral, 1; Communicants, 42; Families, 27.

This Church cannot be considered in a very increasing state: It has however, less to fear from the zeal of its opposers, than from the coldness and indifference of its professed friends. A Sunday School has been commenced with about twenty-five Scholars, and promises the desired success of much usefulness to the children.

### TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

MOORE BINGHAM, MINISTER.

Baptisms — adult 1, infants 3; Funeral, 1; Removal, 1; Communicants, 67.

The members of this Church are very strongly and laudably attached to its services and all its peculiarities; but the remembrance of former difficulties evidently continues to prevent its growth in numbers and in grace.

### UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms — infants 6; Marriage, 1; Communicants, 35.



## CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

Baptisms — adult 1, infants 2; Marriages, 2; Communicants, 35.

## —— CHURCH, ENOSBURGH.

Baptisms — infant 1; Communicants, 12.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, MISSIONARY.

Baptisms — adult 1, infants 9; Communicants, 80.

The Female Missionary Society in this Parish continues to be a very efficient auxiliary to the Parent Society, and the weekly meeting of many of the females of this Church for devotional exercises, has been blessed as the means of increasing the piety and devout affection of those who attend the same. A Mite Society and Sunday School have been recently established under very favourable auspices. And the prospects of this Parish are upon the whole much more encouraging than even our most sanguine expectations had anticipated.

## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK.

JOEL CLAP, MINISTER.

Divine service was performed in this Parish, for the first time, on Sunday, the 20th of November last. Since which time, our meetings for publick worship have been uniformly well and attentively attended. Arrangements are now making for the erection of a neat Church edifice; and there are favorable indications, that the Lord is rendering the humble administration of the Gospel effectual in leading souls to the knowledge of the Saviour.

Baptisms — adults 5, infants 9; Communicants, 14.

## TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms — adult 1, infants 4; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 4; Communicants, 83.

The following Committees and Delegates, nominated by the Committee appointed for that purpose, were appointed:

STANDING COMMITTEE,—Rev. Messrs. Abraham Bronson, Carlton Chase, Joel Clap and S. Brenton Shaw.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE,—Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Hon. Dudley Chase, and Hon. Horatio Seymour.

DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONVENTION,—Clergy, Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap. Laymen, Dudley Chase, Alexander Fleming, George Cleaveland, Royal Blake.

Rev. Mr. Chase proposed the following amendment to the Constitution<sup>1</sup>:

In article 2d, instead of the words, “The said Convention shall meet annually on the fourth Wednesday in June,” insert, “The said Convention shall meet annually on the last Wednesday in May.”

The Treasurer of the Contingent Fund made the following Report, which was accepted:

THE TREASURER OF THE CONTINGENT FUND,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE CONVENTION:

DR.

To contributions this day received from the following Parishes:

Zion Church, Manchester, . . . .	\$ 2.06
Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, . .	9.33
Christ Church, Bethel, . . . . .	8.00
St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury, . .	5.10
Trinity Church, Shelburn, . . . . .	5.56
Trinity Church, Fairfield, . . . . .	3.62
Grace Church, Sheldon, . . . . .	3.40

To oblation taken at the Communion this day, . . . . . 8.76

\$ 45.83

PER CONTRA:

CR.

By balance due for printing Journals of the last Convention \$ 4.00

“Cash on hand, . . . . . 41.83

\$ 45.83

June 28, 1826.

JOEL CLAP, Treasurer.

Rev. Mr. Smith, in behalf of the Prudential Committee, presented the following Report, which was accepted :

The Prudential Committee in obedience to the instructions of the Convention, and by permission of the Agents of the Society for Propagating the Gospel, have inspected the books and papers in the possession both of their Secretary and Treasurer, and as the result of their examination, beg leave to report,—

That the records in the Secretary's office furnish a clear and connected history of the proceedings in recovery of the lands, and a plain view of the tenure and circumstances under which they are holden, and the uses to which they are consecrated. But from these papers they could make no selections which would contain any valuable information additional to what has already, on a previous occasion, been submitted to the Convention.

The Treasurer's books and accounts are kept in a style of neatness and accuracy, and contain much valuable information, of which a condensed view will herewith be submitted. Returns have not yet been received from all the towns where lands were granted—in some of which the recovery is retarded by suits not yet decided; and in many of which, no titles or no lands are to be found. As far as returns have been made, they furnish the following results :

Of the towns in which lots have been leased, there are in the County of

Windham, five towns, annual rent,	\$164.11
Orange, three towns, “	101.71
Washington, five towns, “	90.00
Franklin, seven towns, “	185.08
Chittenden, eleven towns, “	437.33
Addison, twelve towns, “	428.76
Rutland, six towns, “	168.76
Total,	<hr/> \$1,575.75

From these towns considerable sums have been received, and still larger, reckoning back to the time of recovery, are yet due, as will appear from the following table :

<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Amount received.</i>	<i>Rents for three years.</i>
Windham,	\$ 278.77	\$ 492.33
Orange,	259.54	305.13
Washington,	241.50	270.00
Franklin,	318.40	555.24
Chittenden,	850.33	1,311.19
Addison,	827.72	1,286.28
Rutland,	288.79	506.28
Total rents, . . . . .		\$ 4,726.45
Am't received, . . . . .		3,065.05
Balance due, . . . . .		\$ 661.40

Of the number and value of the unleased lots, no satisfactory estimate can be made.

The Agents have proceeded to adjust some of the claims upon the lands for expenses in recovery, and besides other small matters, have made the following appropriations:

To Rev. A. Bronson, . . . . .	\$ 1,200.00
“ A. Sperry, Esq., . . . . .	1,134.00
“ J. Hopkinson, Esq., . . . . .	900.00
“ Daniel Chipman, Esq., . . . . .	337.58
Total,	\$ 3,571.58

All which, with some other items, will appear by the following summary of the Treasurer's books:

#### TREASURER—DEBTOR.

For the following amounts received, exclusive of expenses incurred in effecting leases, surveying lands, &c.

In the County of Windham, . . . . .	\$ 278.77
“ “ Orange, . . . . .	259.54
“ “ Washington, . . . . .	241.50
“ “ Franklin, . . . . .	318.40
“ “ Chittenden, . . . . .	850.33
“ “ Addison, . . . . .	827.72
“ “ Rutland, . . . . .	288.79
	\$ 3,065.05



## TREASURER — CREDITOR.

Amount paid to Hon. D. Chipman,*	\$1,657.76
Paid A. J. Sperry, Esq. toward appropriation in his favor,	330.00
Episcopal Society in Middlebury, . . . . .	160.00
“ “ Guilford, . . . . .	160.50
“ “ Shelburn, . . . . .	89.79
Rev. A. Bronson, . . . . .	108.00
Rt. Rev. Bp. Griswold, . . . . .	100.00
For blank books for Treasurer and county Agents—for blanks for returns, &c. and for travelling expenses to adjust accounts with county Agents, . . . . .	83.08
Hon. Jona. H. Hubbard, and charged him in account,	50.00
Now in the hands of the Treasurer, . . . . .	63.62
Now in the hands of county Agents subject to the order of the Treasurer, . . . . .	244.30
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,065.05

June 28, 1826.

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that greater difficulty and delay have attended the adjustment of this business than were at first anticipated; and that the total amount of net annual income falls very far below the extravagant expectations of the public.

It has afforded the Prudential Committee the greatest pleasure, however, to observe with what accuracy all accounts are kept, and with what wisdom and efficiency arrangements have been made for future collections, and what sure vouchers are required, and safe checks are provided in all money transactions. It would seem to them scarcely possible that the arrangements adopted, and now in actual experiment, should not make collections alike prompt, safe and economical.

Whether more efficient measures might not be adopted for securing the rents of lots yet unleased, remains with the wisdom of the Agents. If no risk attends present delay, this certainly

\* Mr Chipman's account for monies expended in suits—for a sum heretofore allowed him, and for cash paid to Mr. Hopkinson, is something larger than the amount received by him.

appears less important, since all rents can be recovered, back to the time of the first favourable decision of the Supreme Court, in February, 1823.

The Prudential Committee, in conclusion, beg leave to express the high opinion which they entertain of the care and integrity of the Agents in the discharge of their difficult and responsible duties. The efficiency of their measures is materially diminished by the remoteness of their residence from each other, and the consequent difficulty of effecting regular meetings, as well as by the distance of the various Agents to whom the business in the several counties is entrusted. But the confidence which this Convention has reason to place in their general faithfulness, may safely be unlimited.

This Committee cannot but suggest, before closing, the vast importance of procuring the perpetuation of the powers, under which the present Agents and Attornies act, or rather such a modification of them, as may render the conveyance irrevocable, and place the whole business more directly under the supervision of the Convention.

All which is respectfully submitted, by the Prudential Committee, through their Chairman,

B. B. SMITH.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That in view of the Report of the Prudential Committee respecting the proceedings of the General Agents of the Church lands in this State, this Convention is fully satisfied of the wisdom and equity of the proceedings thus reported, and would express its thanks to the Prudential Committee for their laborious attention to the subject submitted to them.

On motion, Resolved, That the Agents of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel," &c. be and they hereby are requested to require of Parishes applying to them for assistance from their funds, a detailed account of the number of Parishioners, the amount of their Grand List, and also the amount of salary actually raised by said Parishes for their Rector or Minister.

The following preamble and resolution, presented by Hon. Dudley Chase, were unanimously adopted :

It being, in the opinion of this Convention, important that the clergy and people of our respective parishes be furnished with the means of sound and useful instruction, and that without access to books such information cannot be obtained ; and, as in the infant state of our Church, the moderate salaries of our clergy will not enable them to purchase books : it is therefore

Resolved, That this Convention recommend each parish in the State of Vermont to establish a Parochial Library for the use of the existing Clergyman and members thereof ; and that the Minister or Wardens of each Parish be requested to return an annual report to this Convention of the condition of its Parochial Library.

On motion, Voted, That the next meeting of this Convention be held in Christ Church, Bethel.

Rev. Sylvester Nash was appointed to preach before the next Convention, and Rev. Carlton Chase his substitute.

The following resolution of the last Convention of the Eastern Diocese was submitted to the Convention :

“Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to inform the Secretaries of the several State Conventions composing this Diocese, that the business of devising means for the more effectual support of the Episcopate is committed to the State Conventions, and that they are hereby requested to attend to that duty,” which was referred to a committee of three to report to the next Convention ; upon which committee the following persons were appointed—Hon. Dudley Chase, Hon. Daniel Chipman, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith.

Adjourned until 6 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Thursday, June 29, 1826—6 o'clock, A. M.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Rev. Abraham Bronson was elected President.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund be and hereby is directed to vest the balance of said Fund, after deducting the expense of printing the Journal of this Convention, in such manner as it may accumulate to the best advantage.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Smith, Voted, That the Secretary be directed to publish six hundred copies of the Journal of this Convention at the expense of the Contingent Fund.

After prayer by the President, the Convention adjourned without day.

A true record.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

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The following passages from the Annual Address of Bishop Griswold to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese assembled at Bristol, R. I. Sept. 27, 1826, properly belong to the foregoing Journal.

“My labours, in the year past, have not been less abundant than at former periods. Since our meeting last year in Boston, I have been able, through the Lord’s goodness, to visit all the Churches in the Diocese, with the exception of three or four, which are not far distant, and which I should have visited, but for the difficulty of finding some one to fill my place here. But this cause of my failure in visiting these few—this circumstance that none of our Clergy were disengaged, gives us a pleasing idea of their diligence, and the state of our Churches.”

“And what is yet more encouraging, and demands our grateful acknowledgments to the Lord of the harvest, eight or ten Clergymen, or Candidates since ordained, respectable for their talents and pious zeal, have recently from other parts, come into the Diocese, where they are labouring with much success and approbation. This, we humbly trust, is an evidence that the Lord has not forsaken, but is still smiling upon us, and if we are faithful that He will continue to bless His Churches committed to our care. These our brethren who have kindly come to our help, we



are bound to receive, and I trust that they are received by the right hand of fellowship, and with the most sincere and cordial affection."

"In these visitations, during the past year, I have travelled about three thousand miles, including one journey, which was extended into Lower Canada; a journey, it is believed, not without use to the Churches in these States. A friendly intercourse between our Churches and those in the Canadas will evidently be of mutual benefit; and especially favourable to our brethren in Vermont. The kindness and cordiality with which I was received at Montreal and Quebec, especially by the Honourable and very worthy Bishop of those provinces, was an interesting proof of the politeness and hospitality of our brethren in those cities, and also of their Christian love and their readiness to co-operate in whatever shall best promote the cause which we all have in view. The recent appointment to the Episcopate there, of one so justly, and so universally respected and esteemed—of one so long and so very much devoted to the cause of the blessed Redeemer, and of the best good of mankind, causes the most pleasing anticipations of the future prosperity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in that part of America."

"Vermont appears to be the most flourishing part of this Diocese. In my journey through it last October, I consecrated new Churches in Sheldon and Fairfield; and at Middlebury admitted Moore Bingham and Louis M'Donald to the order of Deacons. The Rev. John Bristed, Joseph H. Coit, and Richard Peck, from the State of New-York, who have been ordained within the year past, are now labouring in Vermont; and the Rev. Mr. Nash, from Virginia, is also added, and is a valuable addition to the number of their Clergy. Mr. Peck is labouring in Berkshire, Montgomery and Enosburgh; Mr. Bingham in Fairfield and Sheldon; and Mr. Nash in St. Albans and Swanton. And much cause have we of thankfulness that those Churches are at length supplied. Mr. Bristed, it is hoped, will officiate at Ferrisburgh—a new parish—and at Vergennes. The parish in Middlebury are now engaged in erecting a new stone edifice, which, if they succeed in obtaining means to finish, will be one of our best Churches. Mr. M'Donald has officiated in Rutland. The Rev. Mr. Bronson has

removed to Manchester. The Church in Arlington is under the care of the Rev. Mr Coit.

In my tour through Vermont in June last, accompanied by my Rev. brethren Leonard and Clap, I visited for the first time a Parish newly formed in Woodstock, where I passed the fifth Sunday after Trinity, June 25th. The kindness and hospitality with which we were received and entertained, and still more the prospects of a good parish in that place, were highly gratifying. The people who have organized themselves into an Episcopal Society, are respectable in point both of numbers and character, and what is still more encouraging, they appear to be united, prudent and zealous. In that beautiful village, they have selected a pleasant spot for erecting a Church, and had, it was said, already subscribed liberally for that purpose. We had the most pleasing proof of their being much in earnest, in the large number who assembled for worship, and the devout attention which they gave to the various services of the day.

I preached three times, confirmed twelve, and, for the first time in that place according to our mode, the Communion was administered. They who had been confirmed, with several others, devoutly united in commemorating that adorable sacrifice which alone can expiate sin and give spiritual life. I have witnessed but very few occasions more interesting. May the Lord in His merciful goodness guide and bless them. In other places in that State are opening prospects; and when, through the Divine blessing, they shall have obtained quiet possession of their lands, and the expenses shall be defrayed, we may hope for still greater increase."

"But two names have been added to the list of Candidates for Holy Orders—James M. Tappan and Ebenezer Boyden. Seven have been admitted to the Order of Deacons—Moore Bingham, Louis M'Donald, Joseph H. Coit, Richard Peck, John Bristed, Southerland Douglass, and Benjamin C. C. Parker. And the Rev. Silas Blaisdale, Henry W. Ducachet, Thomas S. W. Mott, George Otis and George Griswold, Deacons, have been ordained Priests. Confirmation in several of the Churches visited, has been postponed till the next year; and in others none were desirous of receiving that rite. In the compass of the year, I have administered it twenty-seven times, and yet the whole number confirmed, amounts only to two hundred and ten."

“Since we last met, and indeed within a very few weeks, it has pleased the Head of the Church to remove from our society, and from his ministry here on earth, our worthy and much esteemed brother, the Rev. Herbert Marshall. The Lord knoweth His own purpose, and can overrule the most calamitous event to the furtherance of the Gospel. May the Lord who has removed him to a better world, in His compassionate goodness, send others of like spirit, the like abilities, to supply his place. Our respect for his memory cannot be better shown than in our kind regard to the lovely family which he has left in sorrow.”

“The present is an age of scrutiny, investigation and eager attempts at improvement in every thing. This makes it necessary that Christians should be cautious, lest novelty and change be mistaken for improvement. In religion there is no improvement possible but that of being more and more conformed to the perfect standard of God’s Word, which is the religion of Protestants. For *such improvement* there is no doubt space abundant, both in Churches and individuals.”

“While we follow peace with all men, exercising unbounded charity towards others, we are bound to be strict with ourselves, and to stand fast in the true faith of Christ. At the present time *liberality* is a word which seems to be substituted for *charity*; and it behooves us to beware lest it should be a ‘wolf in sheep’s clothing.’ If it be indeed charity we cannot too much esteem and follow it. But Christian charity neither requires nor admits of any laxity in our faith and practice. It does not consist *in word and tongue, but in deed and truth*. Sectarian love, praising and extolling our own party, and those who agree with us in sentiment, while we, indirectly at least, stigmatize, or cast a shade over others, is the reverse of charity. Indifference respecting articles of belief is not charity. To suppose it unessential what Church we belong to and what doctrines and manner of worship we embrace, is not charity. We *must* believe what God has taught, and we *must* worship Him in *spirit and truth*.”

“It is one and a very distinguishing mark of what is called liberality, to denounce and war against creeds and articles of faith. What is said upon this subject has undoubtedly excited prejudices against our Church and impeded our labours. On both

sides of this question, the utility of creeds, there seems to be some misunderstanding of its true nature. If the Scriptures teach any thing, they teach that faith is necessary to our salvation: we must believe what is taught of Jesus Christ, or we have no promise of future blessedness in His heavenly kingdom. And if we must *believe*, it is evidently necessary that we receive as true and essential to our salvation some *particular articles* of faith. It would be something worse than absurd to suppose it necessary to believe in Christ and yet not necessary to believe anything in particular respecting Him. But if there be some points, or facts or doctrines, whatever they are, necessary to be believed, these are *articles of faith*; and of any one *such* we may say what the Scriptures say of faith generally,—‘He that believeth not shall be damned.’ And though, through fear of wounding delicate ears, we use softer language, I see not how any one can faithfully preach the Gospel without setting forth some particular doctrines of Christ which they who *would be saved must believe*. Even the fault of the Athanasian Creed, which is so much condemned, is in being too particular. For supposing the articles of that creed to be no other or more than the Scriptures make necessary to the Christian Faith, what is called the *damnatory* part, and gives so much offence, is but the plain language of God’s Word.” Episcopal Register, vol. i, pp. 186, 187, 188; vol. ii, pp. 29, 30.

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1827.

BETHEL, June 27, 1827.

This being the day and place assigned for the annual meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, a number of the Clergy, and Lay Delegates from several Parishes in said State, assembled in Christ Church, Bethel, at 9 o’clock, A. M., and were called to order by Rev. Abraham Bronson.



## Present :

REV. MOORE BINGHAM, Deacon, Minister of Grace Church,  
*Sheldon*, and Trinity Church, *Fairfield*.

REV. JOHN BRISTED, Rector of ——— Church, *Ferrisburgh*.

REV. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Zion Church, *Manchester*.

REV. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows  
Falls*.

REV. JOEL CLAP, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburn*.

REV. J. HOWLAND COIT, Deacon, Minister of Bethel Church,  
*Arlington*.

REV. SYLVESTER NASH, Rector of Union Church, *St. Albans*

REV. RICHARD PECK, Deacon, Minister of Calvary Church,  
*Berkshire*, Union Church, *Montgomery*, and Christ  
Church, *Enosburgh*.

REV. S. BRENTON SHAW, Rector of Christ Church, *Guilford*.

REV. BENJ. B. SMITH, Rector of St. Stephen's Church,  
*Middlebury*.

Lay Delegates who presented their Credentials and took  
their seats in Convention :

BETHEL CHURCH, ARLINGTON:

NOBLE HARD.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

HON. DUDLEY CHASE,	THOS. P. RUSSELL,
LUTHER GROVER,	OLIVER GLEASON.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURN:

NEHEMIAH SAXTON.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON:

DANIEL SMITH.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY:

ABIJAH WILLIAMS.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK:

JOSEPH A. GALLUP.

Rev. Abraham Bronson was elected President, and Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary of this Convention.

On motion by Mr. Gleason, Resolved, That Mr. John Whitlock of Castleton, and Mr. Abijah Hawley of Fairfax, be admitted to honorary seats in this Convention;

Whereupon the said gentlemen appeared and took their seats.

Rev. Mr. Smith, Chairman of the Prudential Committee, presented the following Report, which was read and laid upon the table :

REPORT OF PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.—According to the standing direction of Convention, this Committee has waited upon the Treasurer of the Agents of the “Society’s Lands,” and examined the few documents he had to submit, besides those which were submitted to Convention in its last report. But as returns have been received from only four of the County Agents, and the principal pecuniary transactions have been carried on through them, the Treasurer found it impossible to present a full and satisfactory statement. He has, however, been called upon by the Agents themselves to exhibit a perfect account at their next meeting in August, which he obligingly promises to present to the public in the religious Journal published in this State.

B. B. SMITH, Chairman.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the following amendment to the Constitution, which was proposed at the last annual meeting of this Convention, be and hereby is adopted :

In Article 2d, instead of the words, “The said Convention shall meet annually on the fourth Wednesday in June,” insert, “The said Convention shall meet annually on the last Wednesday in May.”

A communication from the Secretary of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies of the General Convention was read and referred to a Committee of three, consisting of

Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Benj. B. Smith, Hon. Dudley Chase.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of a Standing Committee for the year ensuing, when the following gentlemen were duly elected : Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Benj. B. Smith, Rev. S. Brenton Shaw, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Sylvester Nash.

The Convention adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning prayers were read by Rev. Benj. B. Smith, and a Sermon preached by Rev. Sylvester Nash ; the Holy Communion was administered by the Rev. President. After which the Convention met according to adjournment, and adjourned until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Wednesday, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The Treasurer of the Contingent Fund presented the following Report, which was read and accepted :

JOEL CLAP, TREASURER OF THE CONTINGENT FUND,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE CONVENTION : DR.

To Cash then on hand as per report of 1826, . . . .	\$ 45.83
To Cash per Rev. Mr. Shaw, Contribution from Christ Church, Guilford, received in Oct. 1826, . . . .	5.00
To contributions this day taken up in Christ Church, Bethel, . . . .	7.93
To contributions of Zion Church, Manchester, . . . .	3.06
Christ Church, Guilford, . . . .	5.06
Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, . . . .	6.50
Christ Church, Bethel, . . . .	8.56
St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury, . . . .	5.50
Trinity Church, Shelburn, . . . .	5.00
Union Church, St. Albans, . . . .	4.63
To interest on \$ 33.83 one year, and \$ 5.00 eight months, . . . .	2.34
	<hr/>
	\$ 99.35

PER CONTRA :

CR.

By Cash paid D. Watson for printing Journal of 1826, . . \$ 12.00

Balance now in the hands of the Treasurer, . . \$ 87.35

JOEL CLAP, Treasurer.

June 27, 1827.

The Committee to whom the communication from the Secretary of the General Convention, relating to proposed alterations of the Liturgy was referred, reported the following Resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That, the communication from the Secretary of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies of the General Convention, be referred to the Standing Committee, to be reported upon at the next annual meeting of this Convention.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, the Report of the Prudential committee was called up, accepted, and the farther consideration of the same referred to the next annual meeting of this Convention.

On motion by Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Resolved, That the Prudential Committee be requested to concert measures with the "Agents of the Society's Lands," for procuring from the Society in England, such documents and powers as may be necessary, to render their grant permanent and effectual, and to adopt such other methods as they may deem necessary towards rendering their appropriation efficient and useful.

On motion, Resolved, That the Convention now proceed to the election of a Prudential Committee ;

Whereupon, the following gentlemen were duly elected : Rev. Joel Clap, Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard, Edward R. Campbell, Esq., Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Alexander Fleming, Esq.

The Parochial Reports being called for, the following were read, accepted, and ordered to be entered upon the Journals :

#### BETHEL CHURCH, ARLINGTON.

J. HOWLAND COIT, MINISTER.

The state of the Church in this place is such as to excite in our hearts the most lively emotions of gratitude, although we have still much reason to lament barrenness and lack of zeal in the service of our Master. There has been for two years last



passed, more or less of an attention to religious things, the result of which has been an addition of twenty-three to the list of our communicants. Our Sunday Schools, of which there are three attached to our church, are in a flourishing condition, and continue to excite an interest in the minds of young and old. A Bible class has been established, which is attended with considerable interest by a few of the young people, and we regret to say, but by a few. A female prayer meeting, which is held weekly, has been instituted, from which, with the blessing of God, we anticipate the most pleasing results.

The whole number of communicants, after deducting deaths, is 93; Funerals, 2; Baptisms, 4 adults; Marriages, 3; Sunday Scholars, 130.

### ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, SANDGATE.

J. HOWLAND COIT, VISITING MINISTER.

This Church was visited regularly once a fortnight, on a week day, for about the space of three months, besides some occasional visits before and since. During the time of my visiting them, the services of the church were attended to with much interest, and some seriousness manifested. They have also had, occasionally, lay-reading. I would affectionately recommend this parish to the particular attention of the Convention. The people are poor, but pious, and ardently attached to the church we all love, and are hungering and thirsting for the word of life.

The number of communicants, after deducting two or three removals, is 33; Baptisms (5 infants, 2 adults,) 7.

### ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms — adult, 1; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 7; Communicants, 32.

The situation of this parish has not materially varied, within the year. One communicant has been taken away by death, two have removed, and only two have been added. The two who have been added to the communion, are pursuing classical studies with

a view to the ministry. The Rector of this parish has recently commenced a course of lectures, on Sunday evening, in the east part of Dorset, where there is a considerable population, but no regular public worship. There has been an attempt made to establish a parish library, and nearly twenty volumes have been obtained for it by donation; but the organization of it is not yet completed. A Sunday School and Bible Class are continued, but not very well attended.

### ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

B. B. SMITH, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 2; Funerals, 8; Marriages, 4; Communicants, 46.

By the persevering energy of this small parish, the great undertaking which has now been in hand two years, is nearly completed; and they hope to see a neat and substantial Church consecrated to the service of God, some time in October. Whilst this interesting object has engrossed their chief attention, the people have not been wholly indifferent to other objects. Our Sunday School of nearly forty scholars, was never better conducted, or more useful and prosperous.

### —— CHURCH, FERRISBURGH.

JOHN BRISTED, RECTOR.

In the month of June, 1826, a few persons, inhabitants of the town of Ferrisburgh, in the county of Addison, organized themselves according to the statute in such case made and provided, into the First Episcopal Society in the town of Ferrisburgh, and at the annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, holden at Middlebury, on the 28th day of the said month of June, 1826, the said Society was regularly acknowledged as a canonical parish in connection with said convention. In the beginning of July, 1826, the said Society invited the undersigned to preach for them every other Sabbath for one year. On the Easter Monday of 1827, agreeable to due notice, they met and elected their Church Wardens and Vestry-men, and also invited the undersigned to continue his ministrations among them. On the

18th of June instant, said Society, in pursuance of a due notice to that effect, met and elected the undersigned\* their settled minister. The Society is gradually growing in numbers and respectability ; neither of the sacraments has been administered among them. Nothing in the shape of a parochial library, as yet exists.

### UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

S. NASH, RECTOR.

By the blessing of God, the affairs of Union Church have been, on the whole, prosperous during the year past, though not as eminently so as might be wished. The congregation has gradually, and it is hoped, permanently increased, and has been uniformly attentive and serious. And although it is not known that any peculiar degree of attention to the subject of religion at present exists, strong hopes are cherished that the Head of the Church will eventually give increase to the seed sown, and gather a harvest of souls into his Church, as heirs of glory. The present Rector took charge of the parish immediately after the last Convention, and has regularly officiated there three-fourths of the time, and had occasionally, extra services in the neighborhood. Soon after his entering upon the duties of the parish, a Bible Class was formed, which still continues. A Female Missionary Society, Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of this State has also been formed, which bids fair for permanent usefulness, and has already forwarded fourteen dollars and twenty-five cents to the Secretary of the Parent Society, besides making a considerable donation to the Pastor. One afternoon in each week, the Female Communicants meet for devotional exercises, especially prayer, that the Lord will visit and revive his Church. An excellent organ, sufficiently large for the Church, has also been obtained, which adds greatly to the music of the Church. The number of Sunday scholars is small, but probably as large as could in reason be expected, there being two others in the place.

Twelve Communicants have been added within the year, and three have removed. Present number of Communicants, 24; Baptisms (adults 3, children 2,) — 5; Funerals, 4; Marriages, 3.

\* For the sake of uniformity, all signatures have been transferred to the headings of these reports.

## CHRIST'S CHURCH, SWANTON.

S. NASH, RECTOR.

When I took charge of the Parish at St. Albans, it was expected that I should officiate one fourth of the time at Swanton, which I accordingly did for about three months, when the Vestry thought it best for me to preach in Fairfax instead of Swanton. Consequently my services in Swanton were only occasional after this. Early in the Spring, two families which contained all the communicants, removed to New-York. The operations of the Society have, therefore, for the present, entirely ceased.

## —— CHURCH, FAIRFAX.

S. NASH, RECTOR.

The Vestry of Union Church having advised to suspend regular appointments in Swanton, they were transferred to a School House in the corner of Fairfax, about five miles from St. Albans, where several of the communicants of Union Church reside. In that place the services have been numerous and attentively attended, and it is hoped good may result.

## CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

RICHARD PECK, MINISTER.

Baptisms — infants 2, adults 10; Marriages, 1; Funerals, 3; Communicants (added 20), 51.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

RICHARD PECK, MINISTER.

Baptisms (infants 5, adult 1) — 6; Funeral, 1; Communicants (added 3), 38.

## CHRIST'S CHURCH, ENOSBURGH.

RICHARD PECK, MINISTER.

Baptisms (infants 10, adults 3) — 13; Funeral, 1; Communicants (added 5, removed 3), 14.



## GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

MOORE BINGHAM, MINISTER.

Communicants 40 — added 1; suspended from Communion, 1; withdrawn and dismissed, 2.

Though the number of Communicants in this Church has diminished, since the report of 1826, yet it is believed that the true interests and prosperity of the Church have been in no degree impaired by the change. This Church cannot be represented as in a prosperous state; its members and friends, however, are very far from despairing of better days, days of prosperity and grace.

## TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

MOORE BINGHAM, MINISTER.

Communicants 69 — added 1; Baptisms, 6; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 5.

## IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

C. CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 2; Deaths, 2; Marriage, 1; Communicants, 46; Sunday Scholars, 63. This Parish is considered by its Rector, to be in a condition highly prosperous.

## CHRIST'S CHURCH, GUILFORD.

SAMUEL BRENTON SHAW, RECTOR.

The prospects and condition of this Parish continue encouraging, and after an experiment of nine years, it may be considered as having acquired a permanency of character. "This is the Lord's doing," and, considering the peculiarity of its origin, it is surely "wonderful in our eyes." The Sunday Schools contain the usual number of scholars; and the religious publications, patronized by the Church, are eagerly read by the people. There have been, since the last convention, 7 Baptisms, 12 Marriages, only 2 Funerals, and 13 Births. Present number of habitual Communicants, 54. Sunday Scholars, 75; and more than 80 families who meet for Divine Service in both congregations.

## TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms — adult 1, infants 5 ; Marriages, 1 ; Funerals, 4 ; Communicants, about 83.

No essential alteration has taken place in the condition of this Parish during the past year. Very great inconvenience is still experienced, from the interruption of parochial duty, resulting from the partial support of their Rector, and arrangements are now in progress to provide for the adequate support of a Rector.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, MINISTER.

Baptisms (3 adults, 8 infants) — 11 ; Communicants, 81.

The spiritual condition of this Parish is, we humbly trust, under the divine blessing, progressively improving. The Female, Missionary, and Tract Societies, and weekly prayer meetings, continue in very prosperous condition. The Sunday School is in a more flourishing condition than it has ever heretofore been. With a very commendable zeal, an ample subscription has been raised in this Parish, for the purchase of a glebe and the erection of a parsonage, which is in such a stage of forwardness as to promise its completion the present season; and it is confidently believed that a balance will remain to constitute the foundation of a Parochial Library.

## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK.

JOEL CLAP, MINISTER.

Baptisms — infants, 5 ; Communicants, 18.

The prospects of this Parish continue to be encouraging ; arrangements have been made to secure the ministrations of the gospel one-half of the time for the present year ; and under the divine blessing, it is expected the Church edifice will be completed the present season.

The following persons were appointed Delegates to the General Convention :—Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap, Hon. Dudley Chase, Alexander Fleming, George Cleaveland, Esqrs., Mr. Royal Blake.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Clap, Voted, That the next annual meeting of this Convention be holden at Woodstock.

Rev. John Bristed was appointed to preach before the next meeting of the Convention ; and Rev. J. Howland Coit, his substitute.

On motion by Hon. Dudley Chase, it was unanimously Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the expediency of withdrawing from the Eastern Diocese, and of electing a Bishop for the Diocese of Vermont, and to take such measures as they may deem expedient upon that subject, and report to the next annual meeting of this Convention : Whereupon the following persons were appointed upon the aforesaid Committee, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Rev. Joel Clap, Hon. Dudley Chase.

On motion, Ordered, That the Secretary be directed to publish six hundred copies of the Journal of the Proceedings of this Convention, at the expense of the Contingent Fund.

After Prayers, and the Benediction, by the Rev. President, the Convention adjourned, sine die.

A true Record.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

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The following passages are quoted from the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese, assembled at Claremont, N. H. Sept. 26, 1827.

“To give you a particular account of the Churches visited, though to me it might be a pleasure, to you would be tedious.

When, through the Lord's goodness, I shall finish the journey now commenced, and another which is soon to follow, far the greater part of our Churches will have been visited once, and some of them twice or thrice during the present year. The Churches already visited are those of Rhode Island, and those also in Massachusetts, with the exception of those in Newburyport, Bridgewater, Greenfield, Ashfield, Hopkinton, and one or two others. I have also visited Hopkinton and Holderness in this State."

"In these visitations one hundred and ninety-six have been confirmed."

"To the list of Candidates for Holy Orders have been added George E. Haskins, Norris M. Jones, George T. Williams, Anson B. Hard and Charles Cleveland."

"To the Order of Deacons, Robert B. Drane, Henry C. Knight, Clement F. Jones, James M. Tappan, have been admitted; and the Rev. John Bristed, Benjamin C. C. Parker, and Eleazer M. P. Wells, have been ordained Priests."

"The new Parish in Woodstock are engaged in building a Church; and the one building in Middlebury is soon, if the Lord permit, to be consecrated to His holy worship. Several ordinations, with the same Divine permission, will soon take place in that State." *Episcopal Register*, vol. ii, pp. 149—158.

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## SECOND ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION,

AS AMENDED JUNE 27, A. D. 1827.

The said Convention shall meet annually on the last Wednesday in May, at such place as shall be appointed at a previous meeting, and all the Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, residing in this State, shall be entitled to seats in the said Convention; and Lay Delegates from the several Churches in this State, shall be entitled to seats in Convention in the following proportion, viz. each Church shall have the privilege of sending at least one member; if it consists of ten or more communicants,



it may send two members; and for every twenty-five communicants exceeding the number above specified, the said Churches shall be entitled to an additional member.

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## OFFICERS OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VERMONT.

Right Rev. ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD, D. D. President, *ex officio*.

Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, First Vice-President.

Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Second Vice-President.

Rev. JOEL CLAP, *Shelburne*, Secretary.

GEORGE CLEAVELAND, Esq. P. M., *Middlebury*, Treasurer.

Rev. BENJAMIN B. SMITH,	} Managers.
Rev. JOEL CLAP,	
JOSHUA ISHAM,	

## AGENTS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NINTH ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Amherst Willoughby, *Berkshire*. Moses Lester, *Rutland*.

William Barber, *Enosburgh*. Truman Purdy, *Manchester*.

Henry N. Jones, *Montgomery*. Enos Canfield, *Arlington*.

Nathan Lobdell, *Fairfield*. Zenas Prindle, *Sandgate*.

John Richardson, *Fairfax*. Alexander Fleming, *Bellows Falls*.

Samuel A. Wilkins, *St. Albans*. Thomas Leland, *Windsor*.

Phineas Atwater, *Burlington*. Thomas P. Russel, *Bethel*.

Joshua Isham, *Shelburne*. Seth C. Crocker, *Randolph*.

1828.

Pursuant to the provision of the Constitution, the annual meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont was opened on Wednesday, May 28, 1828, at 9 o'clock, A. M. in St. James' Church, Woodstock. The Convention was called to order by the Rev. Abraham Bronson.

Present :

The Rev. MOORE BINGHAM, Minister of Grace Church, *Sheldon*, and Trinity Church, *Fairfield*.

The Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Zion Church, *Manchester*.

The Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

The Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of Christ Church, *Bethel*, and St. James' Church, *Woodstock*.

The Rev. LOUIS McDONALD, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburne*.

The Rev. SYLVESTER NASH, Rector of Union Church, *St. Albans*.

The Rev. S. BRENTON SHAW, Rector of Christ Church, *Guilford*.

The Rev. BENJAMIN B. SMITH, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, *Middlebury*.

The following gentlemen presented their Credentials, and took their seats as Lay Delegates :

UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY :  
RUFUS SMITH.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS :  
ABIJAH STONE.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD :  
ABIJAH HAWLEY.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn:

ASA LYON, 2d.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

LUTHER GROVER,                      OLIVER GLEASON,  
THOMAS P. RUSSELL.

IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS:

HENRY T. GREEN,                      JOHN ATKINSON.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS:

DAVID B. LEWIS.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER:

MANSFIELD FRENCH.

BETHEL CHURCH, ARLINGTON:

SIMEON COLE.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY:

GERSHOM GIFFORD.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR:

JONATHAN H. HUBBARD,                      SIMEON IDE.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK:

JOSEPH A. GALLUP,                      ROYAL BLAKE.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was appointed President, and the Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

The following report of the Prudential Committee was presented, read, and accepted.

Information with regard to the present state of the trust reposed in the Agents of the Society's Lands, desired by the public, and expected by this Convention through the medium of the Prudential Committee, remains still so limited and ill-defined, that their report might perhaps as well be dispensed with. Many of the lots still remain unleased. Accounts from the County Agents are not yet generally rendered. Expenses in recovery and upon recent suits are still unliquidated. Back rents in many cases are still due. And, in a word, the whole business is in so unsettled a state, that neither the Agents themselves, nor their Treasurer, nor your Committee, can possibly, in any limited time, reduce confusion to order, or present a lucid or satisfactory view of the actual condition of their affairs.

Your Committee can simply say, that this unsettled state of things, and this protracted delay, have mainly resulted from causes beyond the control of the Agents, and entirely from the inconveniences inseparable from public trusts connected with scattered property. No possible objection exists to the exhibition of the Treasurer's account as it actually stands: and that document is accordingly appended to this report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE VERMONT AGENCY OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.  
1828.

The whole amount of monies received by this Agency from its first establishment to the present time (exclusive of sums allowed to the several County Agents for their services in effecting leases, and money expended; and for services rendered by other persons in surveying the lands and organizing the business of the Agency—for all which payments have been made previous to this date, as appears by the Treasurer's books) is six thousand thirty-eight dollars and seventy-three cents. \$ 6038.73

The following payments have been made by order of the Agents, viz.

Towards the expenses of sundry suits instituted by the Agents, and a suit instituted against them by the State of Vermont, which was decided in their favor at the last October term of the Circuit Court, the sum of nine hundred seventy-five dollars and fifty-five cents 975.55

To the different Episcopal Societies in the State of Vermont the following sums, viz.

To the Society in the town of Guilford,	. .	315.50
“ “ Middlebury,	. .	236.32
“ “ Fairfield and Sheldon,		66.87
“ “ Swanton,	. . .	12.00
“ “ Shelburn,	. . .	127.66
“ “ Ferrisburgh,	. .	36.00
“ “ St. Albans,	. . .	113.15

In all, \$907.50



From the lands in Ferrisburgh it is supposed by the Treasurer that the Rev. John Bristed has received, in addition to the sum of \$ 36 mentioned above, the sum of \$108—making in all \$ 144—but as the accounts are not closed, only \$ 36 has passed to account in the Treasurer's books.

It should also be remarked, that the Treasurer has no return for the last year from the county of Windham, but has set down the full amount of rents secured in Guilford as received by the Society in that town—presuming that the whole was collected and received.

Sundry payments upon orders in favour of Anson J. Sperry, Esq. drawn by the Agents upon the Treas-

urer, in all, . . . . .	330.00
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do. upon orders drawn in favor of Abraham Bronson, . . . . .	387.50
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do. an order in favour of Mr. Isham for monies by him advanced, . . . . .	27.00
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Paid amount of an order in favour of Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, dated Oct. 15, 1825, . . . . .	100.00
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Paid bill of postage for the last three years . . . . .	13.19
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This sum allowed the Treasurer by the Agents as his salary for three years, ending June 1, 1828, at \$50 per year, . . . . .	150.00
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This sum paid Rev. Abraham Bronson upon an order in favour of the Episcopal Society in Manchester, for monies advanced by said Society in defending a lawsuit in regard to the Church lands, . . . . .	141.00
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Monies received by Daniel Chipman, one of the Agents in the years 1823, 1824, 1825, and 1826, . . . . .	1692.03
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It is perhaps proper to remark that Mr. Chipman has an appropriation in his favour for \$337.58, for services and monies expended in the suit in favour of the Society against the town of New-Haven, and also another order for \$17.00, for subsequent services—making in all, . . . . . 354.58

Has also \$ 6 passed to his credit on the books for monies paid H. Richardson for blank book, . . . . . 6.00—360.58

Which leaves a balance against him, as the books stand, of . . . . .	1331.45
Of this he has paid about \$ 800 towards a claim in favour of Mr. Hopkinson for his services in the New-Haven suit in the Supreme Court of the United States, and has an account yet unliquidated, which, it is supposed, will nearly cover the balance which appears against him on the Treasurer's books.	
This sum is due from the Hon. Dana Miller, who resigned the agency in Windham County about one year ago, and soon after failed—it is not probable that any thing will be realized, . . . . .	106.63
There is now in the hands of the Treasurer, and in the hands of the County Agents, subject to his order, this sum . . . . .	708.33
Amounting in all to	<u>\$6038.73</u>

There is to be paid early in June about \$600 to Mr. Atkinson for monies *advanced* by him in procuring evidence in England, and sending out a copy of the Society's charter under the great seal. There is also to be paid to the counsel in the cases pending \$100, immediately. These sums will cover the amount which the Treasurer can command within the next few months; but he hopes early in the fall to be able to pay all arrearages of appropriations which have been made to parishes and an order for \$100 to Bishop Griswold.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CALVIN C. WALLER.

Middlebury, May 26, 1828.

To the wisdom of this Convention, upon the suggestion of one of the Society's Agents, it seemed best, at their last meeting, to resolve,

"That the Prudential Committee be requested to concert measures with the Agents of the Society's Lands, for the purpose of procuring from the Society in England such documents and powers, as may be necessary to render their grant permanent and effectual, and to adopt such other methods as they may deem necessary towards rendering their appropriation efficient and useful."

Your Committee, on the day after the rising of the Convention, accordingly met the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, and another of the Agents of the Society, and also the Attorney of the Agents, in Windsor, in order to prepare proper documents to be transmitted, for the purposes specified in the above resolution, by the hands of the Rev. C. Chase, then purposing soon to embark for England. Upon the failure of his purpose, this negotiation has been suspended from the want of a suitable medium of communication with said Society.

JOEL CLAP, for Committee.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the expediency of taking any measures in aid of the Agents of the Society's Lands in this State, to render the execution of their trust more prompt and efficient, and report to this Convention.

The following gentlemen were appointed said committee : Rev. Mr. Chase, Jonathan H. Hubbard and Jos. A. Gallup.

On motion, the business of the Convention was suspended for the purpose of attending Divine Service. Morning prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Nash, and a Sermon preached by the Rev. B. B. Smith. After which the Holy Communion was administered by the Rev. President. The Convention then resumed business, and on motion of the Rev. Mr. Chase, adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Wednesday, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Smith, Resolved, That all Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church and candidates for holy orders in the same, who may be present, and are not entitled to seats in this Convention, be admitted to honorary seats in the same.

Whereupon the Rev. George Leonard, of Cornish, N. H. and Mr. George P. Williams, a candidate for Holy orders, appeared and took their seats.

On motion by the Rev. B. B. Smith, Resolved, That this Convention now proceed to the election of a Standing Committee for the year ensuing.

Whereupon the following gentlemen were duly elected :  
The Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Samuel B. Shaw.

The following communication from the Secretary of the Convention of the Eastern Diocese was read, and, on motion of the Rev. B. B. Smith, laid on the table.

MIDDLEBURY, Oct. 2, 1827.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—

It becomes my duty to communicate to you the following resolutions of the Diocesan Convention, passed at the late session at Claremont, Sept. 27, 1827.

On motion of the Rev. C. Burroughs, Resolved, That this Convention think it desirable and important that the State Conventions of the Eastern Diocese should, previous to the next meeting of the General Convention, express their opinions relative to the alterations proposed in the Liturgy and in the Constitution of the Church by the last General Convention; and that this resolve be communicated to the Secretaries of the respective State Conventions."

"On motion of the Rev. A. L. Baury, Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to call upon the Secretaries of the several State Conventions composing this Diocese, with a view of ascertaining if any thing, and what has been done, for the more effectual support of the Episcopate, and that they be requested to report to the next Convention of this Diocese.

I have the honor to be,

With perfect respect,

Yours, &c.

B. B. SMITH, Secretary.

REV. JOEL CLAP, Secretary of the Convention  
of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont.

On report of the committee appointed by the last convention to take into consideration the expediency of adopting



measures for the separation of this State from the Eastern Diocese, it was Resolved, that the further consideration of this subject be indefinitely postponed.

The following Parochial Reports were presented and read:

### ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 4; Marriages, 2; Funeral 1; Communicants, 34.

There is a Sunday School Society connected with this parish, auxiliary to the the General Sunday School Union of the church, also an Auxiliary Female Missionary Society, and a Juvenile Female Prayer Book and Tract Society. The course of Biblical instruction to the young people has been continued, and, it is hoped, with material benefit. Through the instrumentality of this parish, a Library Society has been formed in the town; and, besides the funds raised by the proprietors, it has received a donation of books, estimated at more than two hundred dollars, from a deceased patron. The Rector continues his Sunday evening lectures in Dorset. The parish have within a short time raised money to purchase a church bell, which is to be ready for their use in a few days.

### \* BETHEL CHURCH, ARLINGTON.

J. HOWLAND COIT, RECTOR.

Communicants, 100; Baptisms (infants 3, adults 7) — 10; Death, 1; Marriages, 4.

### CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

S. B. SHAW, RECTOR.

Within the year past there have been baptized, in this parish, ten persons, two of whom were adults; fifteen couples have been married. There have been eleven burials and sixteen births. Five have been added to the communion, and one communicant has died; present number, fifty-eight. There are in this parish

\*This report was forwarded after the rising of the Convention.

two Sunday Schools, containing between seventy and eighty scholars, and two Bible Classes of young ladies. There are ninety-two families which regularly attend church, and about four hundred and fifty souls in the parish. The church on the whole may be considered as flourishing. Although she has lost in the death of the Senior Warden an ardent and valuable friend, nevertheless the Divine blessing has not deserted her. Her services on the Sabbath are remarkably well attended, and the hostility manifested by other denominations in former times, has almost entirely ceased.

### IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

CARLTON CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 5; Death (of a child by accident), 1; Marriage, 1; Communicants, 46.

Of the names standing on our Register at the last convention we have lost several by removals, while our number around the altar has been kept good by additions. Although this parish has for several years had its Sunday School, and has felt somewhat of the good effects of those institutions, yet it may be reported, that during the past year the subject has excited a singularly deep and general interest. The method of inciting to industry by the distribution of graduated rewards has been laid aside. A library has been formed, consisting of one hundred and eighty volumes. The use of this, together with the constant exertions of the teachers to render the studies and exercises interesting, has been found to furnish a sufficient incitement. The school was not suspended during the winter. The rolls for this season will probably show about sixty scholars. Exertions have recently been made to form a parish library, and made with pleasing success. The amount of subscriptions and donations for that purpose (mostly cash) is not far from one hundred and twenty dollars, which will be immediately appropriated. It may be proper to mention also, that during the year the ladies of the parish have formed a society for useful and benevolent objects—the principal of which are the distribution of the Scriptures among the needy, and the increase of the parish library. Their income for this year is estimated at about forty dollars.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

There have been in this Church the year past, 8 baptisms—2 adults and 6 children; 2 marriages, and 4 burials.

The year previous, for which there was no report made to the last Convention, owing to the absence of the Rector, there were 8 baptisms (all children); 2 marriages, and 2 burials.

The number of communicants in St. Paul's Church is 30; the Church since its organization in 1816 having suffered heavily by deaths and removals, and four members having withdrawn themselves from communicating, without giving a reason for so doing.

The Sunday School consists of about 30 scholars.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 3, infants 5) — 8; Funerals, 2; Marriages, 1; Communicants, 88.

On the first of November last, the undersigned left the charge of Trinity Church, Shelburn, and removed to this parish, and assumed the duties of its rector, since which time his labors have been divided between this and the parish of St. James' Church, Woodstock. The parsonage, very much to the praise of the parish, is completed; but it is a subject of deep regret that our expectation in relation to the establishment of a parochial library is not yet realized.

## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adult 1, infants 2) — 3; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 24.

Under the divine blessing, the church edifice, in which we are now assembled, is very nearly completed, and much credit is due for the very great exertions which have been made by the parish, yet in its infancy, in furnishing it with a bell and organ, and fitting it up in such convenient order for the celebration of public worship.

A Sunday School, consisting of about 40 scholars, has been recently organized, under the superintendence of Mr. George P. Williams, which is in a very prosperous condition. And chiefly through the liberality of the ladies of the parish, about \$ 30.00 have been raised for the purchase of a library for the use of said School.

### ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

B. B. SMITH, RECTOR.

The new church edifice was so far completed as to be consecrated on the 14th of October last, but has been occupied as the regular place of worship only since the first of December. Since that time the congregation has very considerably increased. Indeed, upon a review of the last five years, it appears that it has nearly doubled. At that time about 30 families and 8 single male contributors, made up the whole parish. Death and removals have reduced considerably this number. The parish now consists of about 50 families, and 20 single male supporters. By a like review of communicants it appears that 30 were connected with the church at the first report of the present Rector. Other 33 have been added during his ministry. But by death, removal, &c. the number is reduced to the same last reported.

Communicants, 46; Baptisms (infants 10, adults 2) — 12; Funerals, 4; Marriages, 7.

The temporal interests of the parish were, perhaps, never as prosperous and promising. But whilst the very remarkable and gracious providence of God in this respect is very thankfully acknowledged; there is the more occasion bitterly to deplore the indifference which prevails with regard to the real spiritual concerns of the Redeemer's kingdom! May the immortal interests of the people experience a blessing far excelling all providential bounties heretofore received.

### TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn.

LOUIS McDONALD, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 2; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 7; Communicants, 80. The present Rector has officiated in this parish from the first day of November last, to the present time. A Bible Class has



been recently formed, from which much good is anticipated. Though struggling with some inconsiderable difficulties, the affairs of the society are prosperous, and with the Divine blessing it has little to fear.

## UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

S. NASH, RECTOR.

Marriages, 3; Baptisms (two adults), 6; Confirmed, 7; Funerals (11 unbaptized), 14; Communicants, 27; Removed, 3.

Renewed exertions have lately been made in favour of a Sunday School, the result of which is a flourishing school of 75 scholars.

The congregation in the corner of Fairfax continues nearly as reported last year.

## GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

MOORE BINGHAM, MINISTER.

Communicants (added 5, suspended 1) — 44; Baptisms (adults 3, children and infants 7) — 10; Marriage, 1; Funerals, 4.

## TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD.

MOORE BINGHAM, MINISTER.

Communicants, (added, 2; suspended, 1; restored, 1) — 69; Baptisms (adults 1, infants 4) — 5; Funerals, 2.

There are several persons wishing to unite with this church, who as yet by reason of great distance, or for other causes, have been prevented from doing it publicly on communion days. They will, it is hoped, improve the first opportunity of solemnly renewing their baptismal covenant, by faithfully coming to this holy Sacrament.

## CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

RICHARD PECK, RECTOR.

Marriages, 2; Funerals, 8; Confirmations, 19; Communicants (added 5) — 60.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

RICHARD PECK, RECTOR.

Baptisms (infants 3, adults 1) — 4; Funerals, 3; Confirmations 20; Communicants (added 22) — 55.

## CHRIST CHURCH, ENOSBURGH.

RICHARD PECK, VISITING MINISTER.

Baptisms (infant 1, adults 2) — 3; Funerals, 3; Confirmations, 7; Communicants (added 3, removed 6) — 10.

The following gentlemen were appointed the Prudential Committee for the year ensuing: Rev. Joel Clap, Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Thomas P. Russell, and Alexander Fleming, Esqrs.

The following gentlemen were appointed Delegates to the General Convention: Clergy, Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap. Laymen, Dudley Chase, Alexander Fleming, George Cleveland, Royal Blake.

The following report of the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund was presented, read, and accepted.

## THE TREASURER OF THE CONTINGENT FUND,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE CONVENTION:

DR.

To cash on hand, as per last report, . . . . .	\$87.35
To oblation this day received, . . . . .	10.68
Contributions this day received from the following Parishes:	
Union Church, St. Albans, . . . . .	4.87
St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury, . . . . .	5.00
St. John's Church, Poultney, . . . . .	2.50
Christ Church, Bethel, . . . . .	9.00
Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, . . . . .	7.00
To interest on \$75.35, eleven months, . . . . .	4.24

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\$130.64

PER CONTRA:

CR.

By cash paid David Watson for printing Journals of 1827, \$12.00

Balance on hand, . . . . . \$118.64

May 28, 1828.

JOEL CLAP, Treasurer.

On motion by Rev. B. B. Smith, Resolved, That the next annual meeting of this Convention be held at Middlebury.

On motion by Rev. C. Chase, Resolved, That in consideration of the report made to this Convention on the subject of the Church Lands in this State, it is inexpedient to take any further measures respecting the report of the Prudential Committee, made to the Convention in 1827, and postponed from that time to this.

The Convention adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, May 29th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Convention met according to adjournment.

The following report was presented, read and accepted ; and the resolution contained in it adopted:

The Standing Committee, to whom was referred a communication from the Secretary of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies of the General Convention, relating to certain proposed alterations in the liturgy, recommend the following resolution to be adopted by this Convention :

Resolved, That this Convention are convinced of the expediency of making some alterations in the liturgy of the Church, and especially of shortening the morning service: but the proposed amendments, taken together, are not such as they think best calculated to effect the desired object. They would, however, express the opinion, that the proposed form of a Preface to the Confirmation Office, is preferable to the one now in use, and if it may be acted upon by itself, they would recommend its adoption.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, Chairman.

The following report was read and accepted :

The Committee to whom was referred, by a resolution of yesterday, the subject of the expediency of taking measures in aid of the Agents of the Society's lands in this State, with a view to render the execution of their trust more prompt and efficient having attended to the duties of their appointment, beg leave to report:—

That they consider it expedient and necessary, that measures be immediately taken for obtaining of the Society in England, the addition of three or four persons to the present number of Trustees, or General Agents,—and also of securing, if possible, a perpetuation of the board :

That the agents who are charged with the collection of the rents of said lands, be requested to enforce the collection of the same as soon as they become due, and to pay the same over to the Treasurer immediately :

That measures be immediately taken to cause to be leased all such of the said lands as have not already been leased, so far at least as the same may be practicable.

The Committee conclude with recommending that the Prudential Committee be charged with the duty of conferring with the Agents or Trustees. and of concerting and prosecuting measures for effecting the objects contemplated in this Report.

C. CHASE, Chairman of Com.

On motion by the Rev. B. B. Smith, Resolved, That the Prudential Committee be charged with the execution of the measures recommended in the above report.

On motion by the Rev. C. Chase, Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to publish at the expense of the contingent fund, six hundred copies of the Journal of the proceedings of this Convention.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was appointed to preach before the next annual meeting of this Convention, and the Rev. Carlton Chase was appointed his substitute.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, without day.

A true Record.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

The following paragraphs are quoted from the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese held at Bellows Falls, Sept. 24th, 1828.

“Being permitted, through the Lord’s patient goodness, thus to meet you again, I proceed to lay before you some account of my official performances during the year past, and of the present state of the Churches under our care.”

“Those which, since we last met, I have visited, including some few which, the Lord permitting, I hope very soon to visit, are, or will be, all in Rhode Island, excepting St. Paul’s in Wickford, all in New-Hampshire, excepting Holderness; and in Maine, with the exception of Gardner. In Massachusetts, all but those in Bridgewater, Salem, Marblehead, Newburyport, Lanesborough, Otis, Blanford and Lenox. In Vermont, all without exception.”

“The number confirmed is two hundred and thirty-two, which may seem to be small, but our parishes are also small, a few excepted.”

“During the year, Orange Clark, Joseph H. Rice, James H. Tyng, and Benjamin Hale, have been received as Candidates for Holy Orders.”

“The names of those who have been ordained Deacons are William Horton, James Everett and Norris M. Jones; and of those advanced to the Priesthood, the Rev. Messrs. Richard Peck, Moore Bingham, Louis McDonald, Joseph H. Coit, Thomas W. Coit and George Richardson.”

“The Rev. Messrs. Robert B. Drane, Joseph H. Coit, George Griswold, Moore Bingham and Benjamin B. Smith have taken Letters Dimissory from this Diocese, as have also several of our Candidates, and have removed to other parts.”

“Immediately after our last Convention in Claremont, I proceeded to visit the Churches in Vermont. I found the new parish in Woodstock going forward with vigour and zeal. Their new Church, the Lord permitting, will be set apart for its sacred use on Sunday next.”

“In Bethel, the Parish, with their accustomed piety and zeal, have built a very convenient house for the use of their minister, in which the Rev. Mr. Clap resides—his services being now divided between Bethel and Woodstock.”

“In Berkshire, on the 4th of October, the Rev. Richard Peck was ordained Priest. His labours in that part of the State appeared to have been very much blessed; of which we had pleasing



evidence in seeing forty-five persons, with much appearance of sincere devotion, come to confirmation. In Fairfield, also, on the 7th the Rev. Moore Bingham was ordained Priest; but he has since left his parishes, Sheldon and Fairfield, which are now vacant."

"The Church in St. Albans, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Nash, is flourishing, and his labours there are blessed. The Lord will not forsake a people, who do so much for His honor as that little flock has done."

"In Shelburne, on the 10th of October, 1827, the Rev. Louis McDonald was likewise advanced to the order of Priesthood; and was soon after instituted as Minister of that Parish, which the Rev. Mr. Clap had previously resigned."

"On the 14th, of October 1827, the beautiful stone edifice in Middlebury was consecrated to God's holy worship, by the name of St. Stephen's Church. The services in all respects of interest and solemnity, and we trust of profit, were not behind those on other like occasions."

"In Arlington, on the 18th of the same month, the Rev. Joseph H. Coit was ordained Priest. He also has left that parish vacant, and has taken a dismission from this Diocese."

"We have occasion for gratulation and praise to God for the progress of His kingdom in this sinful world. Among Christians generally, learning and the knowledge of the Scriptures are evidently increasing. On the one hand, enthusiasm is more and more tempered by rational piety; and on the other, the form of godliness is more enlivened by its power. Serious Christians generally are becoming more sensible of what are the true principles of their holy faith; and they better distinguish what an Apostle calls the 'gold and silver and precious stones' of religion, from its 'wood, hay and stubble.' They who have been acquainted with the Church for the last thirty, or even twenty years, must have noticed this remarkable change in the style of preaching, in the comparative regard for the distinguishing doctrines of the Cross, and the spirituality of religion; and in a holy, disinterested zeal for imparting the knowledge of Christ, and the saving truths of His Gospel to all who are *sitting in darkness*, and are *without God in the world*. In our own country, at no other period has this change been so rapid, and so apparent, as during the year or

two last past. It is particularly pleasing to contemplate the change in this Diocese. When, eighteen years since, it was organized, true Church principles, with few exceptions, were less regarded. The doctrines of the Reformation were not so generally and suitably enforced; and it is certain that the authority of the Church, and of our General Convention, were held in much less estimation. How great since has been the change in the increase of our numbers, the union of our Churches, and the correctness of our principles! If we bring into view, what to judge accurately we must do, the comparative increase of population in the different States, our increase, in the number of our Clergy, and Churches, and Communicants, has been greater than in any other of the northern or middle States. The union of our Churches, without interruption, has been, and still is increasing; party distinctions are happily scarce known among us; and they should be considered our enemies who would introduce them. The true principles of the Protestant Episcopal Church, can, I verily believe, in no part of this world be found in greater perfection, than in this Diocese. It is delightful to see the reverence which our Clergy and people now generally have for the order and worship of the Church, and for the General Convention. I cannot sufficiently express my thanks to the Father of Mercies, and the Head of the Church, that especially we have in this Diocese a body of Clergy so decidedly attached to the Episcopal Church, and so zealous in support of distinctive principles, without any leaning to popery or abandonment of Protestant principles or neglect of Evangelical truth."

"But while we offer the just tribute of praise to God for so great a blessing, let us not deceive ourselves in a vain confidence of boasting, nor because in these things we are much better than in times past, suppose we are all which we ought to be. We of the Episcopal Church, are indeed too much given to commend ourselves, and we may even fear that the cant of sectarianism is growing upon us. A habit of complacency in thinking and speaking of our orthodoxy, and the superior excellence of our Ecclesiastical system, naturally leads us to put too much confidence in our profession, and to be so satisfied with ourselves as to make less improvement, Let us not forget who it is that makes us to differ from others;

and that for all which God gives us we are accountable to Him. If in our religious privileges we are indeed more blest than other Christians, we are also more sinful, and more to be condemned than other Christians, if we do not also *as much excel them* in the fruits of the Spirit, and a zeal for God. We cannot be the best friends of religion, except we are the most willing and most forward in promoting its general interests; nor the best friends of the Church, if we are not the most active in doing that which will best increase the number and faith and piety of its members. Our Lord's rule is: 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' Truly to love Him is to believe His word and do His work." Episcopal Register vol. iii, pp. 165—170.

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1829.

Wednesday, May 27th, 1829.

This being the day designated by the Constitution of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, for the annual meeting of that body, a number of the Clergy and Lay Delegates assembled in St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury, at 9 o'clock, A. M. The Convention was called to order by the Rev. Abraham Bronson.

Present :

Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Zion Church, *Manchester*.

Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of Christ Church, *Bethel*, and St. James' Church, *Woodstock*.

Rev. LOUIS McDONALD, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburne*.

Rev. SYLVESTER NASH, Rector of Union Church, *St. Albans*.

The following gentlemen presented their Credentials, and took their seats as Lay Delegates :

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY:

HORATIO SEYMOUR,

GEORGE CLEAVELAND,

JOEL DOOLITTLE,

DORASTUS WOOSTER.

TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn:

JOSHUA ISHAM.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD:

ABIJAH HAWLEY.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was appointed President, and the Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

On motion, Resolved, That the President be, and he hereby is, authorized to invite Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church and candidates for holy orders in the same, who may be present, to the sittings of the Convention.

In pursuance of the above resolution, the Rev. George Leonard, of the Diocese of New-Hampshire, and the Rev. Moore Bingham, of the Diocese of New-York, appeared and took their seats.

On motion of Hon. Dorastus Wooster, Resolved, that a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of petitioning the "Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts," to appoint a new agency and new Agents, to superintend the avails of their lands in Vermont.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee upon the above resolution: Hon. Dorastus Wooster, Rev. Joel Clap, and Hon. Horatio Seymour.

The Convention was then adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service. Morning Prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Chase, and a Sermon delivered by the Rev. Mr. Bronson. The Holy Communion was then administered, after which the Convention met pursuant to adjournment, and adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Three o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

The following report was presented, read and accepted, and the Resolution, which it contains, adopted:

The Committee raised on the resolution presented by D. Wooster, have had that subject under consideration, and approve of the measures recommended by the committee of the last annual Convention, to which the same subject was referred, and they recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Prudential Committee be instructed to continue their exertions to carry into effect the recommendations of the committee of the last annual Convention, to which was referred the subject of aiding the Agents of the Society's lands in this state in rendering the execution of their trust more prompt and efficient ; and that said committee be further requested to procure from the Agents, a detailed statement of the proceeds of the lands in season to be laid before the Convention at its annual meeting in each year.

D. WOOSTER, for Committee.

Gershom Gifford appeared, presented his Credentials, and took his seat, as Lay Delegate from St. John's Church, Poultney.

On motion of Hon. Horatio Seymour, Resolved, That a committee be raised to procure from the Agents of the Society's lands in this State, a full and detailed statement of the situation of the funds they have charge of, showing the quantity of land leased, the annual amount of rents that have been received, the amount that remains due, and the expenses that have been incurred, and other disbursements, for the use of the Convention.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to carry into effect the foregoing resolution : Hon. Dorastus Wooster, Horatio Seymour, and Joel Doolittle.

On motion of Hon. D. Wooster, Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to nominate four suitable persons, residents of the State of Vermont, to be recommended by this Convention to the Society, to be appointed addi-



tional Agents, agreeably to a foregoing resolution of this Convention.

The following committee was accordingly appointed: Rev. Carlton Chase, Joshua Isham, and Dorastus Wooster.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of the Standing Committee for the year ensuing; when the following gentlemen were duly elected:

Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Sylvester Nash, and Rev. Samuel B. Shaw.

The following Delegates were appointed to represent this Convention in the next General Convention: Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap, and Rev. Sylvester Nash, of the Clergy.—Hon. Dudley Chase, George Cleaveland, Alexander Fleming, Esqrs. and Mr. Cyrel Fuller of the Laity.

The following gentlemen were appointed the Prudential Committee for the year ensuing: Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap, and Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard.

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was nominated as a Trustee of the General Theological Seminary.

Adjourned until 7 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, 7 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The following report of the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund was presented, read and accepted.

THE TREASURER OF THE CONTINGENT FUND,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE CONVENTION:		DR.
To cash on hand, as per last report, . . . . .		\$118.64
To contribution taken up during the present session of the Convention, . . . . .		6.56
Contribution from Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, . . . .		8.40
“ Christ Church, Bethel, . . . . .		4.93
“ Zion Church, Manchester, . . . . .		3.00
Interest on \$106.64 for 12 months, . . . . .		6.39
		<hr/> \$147.92
PER CONTRA:		CR.
With cash paid D. Watson for printing Journal of 1828, . . .		\$12.00
		<hr/> Balance on hand, . . . . . \$135.92

JOEL CLAP, Treasurer.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the President of this Convention be and hereby is directed to issue in favor of each of the Delegates, Clerical and Lay, who shall attend the General Convention to be holden at Philadelphia on the 12th day of August next, his order on the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund to the amount of twenty dollars, or such proportionate sum as the state of the fund will justify.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to publish six hundred copies of the Journal of the proceedings of this Convention, at the expense of the Contingent Fund.

The following report of the Prudential Committee was read and accepted :

It is with deep regret your Committee are obliged again to report their inability to exhibit a satisfactory statement of the situation of the lands in this State, appropriated to the use of the Church.

But one of the suits pending at the last meeting, is yet decided. In the suit instituted by the State for the recovery of the land in Berlin, which was intended to test the Society's title to lands held under the New-Hampshire charters, the decision in favor of the Society is confirmed; the Supreme Court of the United States having decided that it did not come within their jurisdiction. In the other suit carried up to the Supreme Court of the United States, there has been, as yet, no hearing.

But few leases have been executed by the Agents during the past year; and no meeting of that Board has been held.

Your Committee have been waiting the arrival of a gentleman from England, through whom they intended making communications to the Society in England, relative to the alteration in the power of attorney, suggested by the resolution of the last Convention upon that subject.

JOEL CLAP, for Committee.

The following Parochial Reports were presented and read :

BETHEL CHURCH, ARLINGTON.

J. M. TAPPAN, MINISTER.

By request of this parish, I commenced with them my labors on the 16th November of last year. For several months before my engagement with this people, the constant services of the church had not been performed among them. I found them quite anxious for the residence of a clergyman, who should be constant and faithful in breaking to them the bread of life, according to the practice and principles of our church. An engagement was made with me to remain with them for the space of six months. That period has now elapsed, and a further engagement for one year is now contemplated. In all probability, for the present year, there will be a heavy tax upon this parish, which will give some check to their ability for the support of a clergyman. Their attention and exertions are now turned toward the praiseworthy design of erecting a new house of worship. A new building for the accommodation of this congregation is considered necessary, and without doubt will speedily be erected. The people of this parish generally are much attached to the principles, doctrines, and services of our church; and seem disposed to contribute cheerfully for the advantages which come to mankind through the gospel of Christ. And, upon the whole, prospects are encouraging for the continued prosperity of this parish.

Within a few weeks, a Bible Class has been formed, and a Sunday School of about forty scholars, is in a flourishing state. The number of communicants in this parish is one hundred. Since my residence here there have been five Baptisms and five Funerals.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

A. BRONSON, RECTOR.

Communicants, 35; Funerals, 12; Marriages, 7.

The Sunday School in this parish is continued, as well as the Female Missionary Society; but though the congregation is on the increase, it cannot with confidence be said, that there is any evident increase of real piety. A good bell has been procured for the church, within the year past.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY,

MOORE BINGHAM, MINISTER.

Communicants (Added, 2) — 15; Funeral, 1.

Divine Service for one half of the time was commenced in this parish in November last, and has been continued to the present, and the parish intend supporting it the year ensuing, if possible.

## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

SAMUEL BRENTON SHAW, RECTOR.

Baptisms 9 — two of which were adults; Deaths, 8; Marriages, 15; Births, 20; Families, 92; Communicants (6 added, 3 died, and 3 removed), present number, 58.

The Sunday Schools have been organized this season under very favorable circumstances, and contain about the usual number of Scholars. A library has been commenced for their use, containing more than one hundred volumes, and from which essential benefit has already been derived; and we believe that the temporal and spiritual condition of the parish was never more encouraging.

## IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

C. CHASE, RECTOR.

Marriages, 5; Deaths, 3; Communicants, 40; Sunday School Children, 60.

Although the congregation has greatly increased, insomuch that the attention of the Vestry has been called to the subject of augmenting the accommodations of the church, yet it has been so ordered by Providence, that removals have diminished the number of our communicants. The Rector has for more than two years, devoted one evening in each week to the instruction of a class of females in the Sacred Scriptures. The effects have been highly beneficial. Our Sunday School is as flourishing as we have ever reported. The parish library, which was commenced a year since, consists now of one hundred and fifty choice volumes.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

GEORGE LEONARD, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 7, children 8) — 15; Sunday School Scholars, 36; Marriages, 3; Burial, 1; Confirmations, 8; and Communicants, 28.

## CHRIST'S CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 3; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 3; Communicants, 88.

## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adult 1, infants 2) — 3; Communicants, 24.

The Sunday School in this parish continues in a prosperous condition; and has realized the advantage of uninterrupted instruction through the Winter. Its library consists of something more than an hundred well selected books, and has been found much more effectual in keeping up the interest of the scholars than the former system of graduated rewards.

## ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

J. DOOLITTLE, WARDEN.

Communicants, 46; Baptisms (infants 3, adults 2) — 5; Funerals, 2; Marriage, 1.

Rev. B. B. Smith, late Rector, removed to Philadelphia in the month of August. Since which time there has been none but occasional preaching.

## TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn.

LOUIS M'C DONALD, RECTOR.

Marriages, 10; Baptisms, 6; Funerals, 10; Communicants, 80.

The present condition of this parish furnishes nothing of peculiar interest. Notwithstanding the removal of one family, and several deaths, the number of communicants is believed to be about the same as reported at the last Convention.



## UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

S. NASH, RECTOR.

Communicants, 38,—removed 3; Baptisms, 5; Marriages, 9; Funerals, 5.

Service has been constant in this church during the past year. Of course, the appointment at the corner of Fairfax has been given up as a regular Sabbath day appointment. A five o'clock service has been attended there, however, by the Rector, generally once in four weeks, at which full congregations have always been convened. The Sunday school is believed to be in a prosperous state.

All the other parishes in the county being now vacant, occasional services have been performed in some of them by the Rector; among which have been, of funerals—one in Swanton, and four in Fairfield; of marriages—one in Fairfield, two in Fairfax, and one in Cambridge.

On motion, Unanimously Resolved, That this Convention approve of the publication of the Episcopal Register, and recommend it to the patronage of the friends of the Church.

The committee appointed to nominate to this Convention four suitable persons to be recommended to the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," as additional Agents for the management of the lands belonging to said Society in this State, nominated the following gentlemen: Jonathan Hatch Hubbard, Jonathan Hagar, Dorastus Wooster, and Alexander Fleming; which nomination was unanimously approved of by the Convention.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Chase, Unanimously Resolved, That this Convention recommend, and do hereby recommend to the "Society in England for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," the Hon. Jonathan Hatch Hubbard of Windsor in the county of Windsor, the Hon. Dorastus Wooster and Jonathan Hagar, Esq. of Middlebury in the county of Addison, and Alexander Fleming, Esq. of Rock-

ingham in the county of Windham, as suitable persons to be added to the present board of Agents, as attornies, to whose management are entrusted the Society's land in this State.

Resolved, That in case either of the above named gentlemen shall decline this nomination and recommendation, the Standing Committee of this Convention be and hereby are directed to name and recommend a substitute as soon as may be.

On motion, Resolved, That the next annual meeting of this Convention be held in St. Paul's Church, Windsor.

The Rev. Louis McDonald was appointed to preach before the next Convention, and the Rev. Samuel B. Shaw was appointed his substitute.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved that the President be, and he hereby is directed to draw an order upon the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund for the sum of five dollars and twenty-five cents, to be paid over to the Secretary of the General Convention for the benefit of the Contingent Fund of that body.

Adjourned, without day.

A true Record.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

The Treasurer of the Contingent Fund acknowledges the receipt of \$ 6.00 from Union Church, St. Albans, subsequent to the rising of the Convention.

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The following paragraphs are quoted from the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Annual Convention of the Eastern Diocese held at Lowell, Mass. on the last Wednesday in September, 1829.

“Prevented, Beloved Friends and Brethren, by the deeply afflictive dispensation of a wise and righteous God, from being with you in Convention, I send you the Address which has been prepared for the occasion.”

“The Churches in Vermont visited during the year past are those in Windsor, Woodstock and Guilford. It is my purpose soon, the Lord permitting, to commence a journey through Vermont, and the Western part of Massachusetts; and I hope after my return, and during the present year to visit others in the Eastern parts of the Diocese. Confirmations have been but one hundred and sixty-four—a number unusually small; but we hope that they are of ‘such as should be saved.’”

“Of Candidates for Holy Orders, three only, George Bridgeman, Enoch Hale and —— Colton, have been admitted. Several young men from this Diocese, who pursue their Theological studies in our public Seminaries, have entered their names as Candidates in the Dioceses in which the Seminaries are; and in consequence obstacles have been thrown in the way of their returning to their own States.”

“Of change by death, there has been one mournful instance; The Rev. George Richardson, who had for some time laboured faithfully in Charlestown and Drewsville, was, several months since taken from this to another, and we trust to a better world. His bereaved family have a just claim upon our sympathy, and compassionate regard. Whether it would not be suitable for us, as a Convention, some way to notice such visitations of the Almighty is suggested to your consideration.”

“The Ordinations in the year past are eleven: Benjamin Hale, George F. Haskins, Orange Clark, Isaac Peck, Joseph H. Price, James H. Tyng and James Sabine, have been ordained Deacons; and the Rev. Messrs. Clement F. Jones, William Croswell, James Everett and Daniel L. B. Goodwin have been admitted to the Order of Priests.”

“Changes by removals: Several of our Students in theology, how many is not exactly known, have been ordained in other Dioceses, and are not likely to return to this. It gives me, however, pleasure to state, that the Rev. Edward Ballard and the Rev. Anson B. Hard, though they have not obtained letters Dimissory, manifest a desire not to forsake us; but to bestow their labours in this part of the Lord’s Vineyard, where they are so much needed, and where I trust it may truly and without offence be said, that the Providence of God more especially calls them. The Rev.

James Everett, as Chaplain in the Navy, is ordered by Government on a cruise; and the Rev. Mr. Fenner occupies the station at the Navy Yard in Charlestown. The Rev. Clement F. Jones, the Rev. Norris M. Jones and the Rev. Orange Clark are absent, and may not return. The Rev. Mr. Mott is also, in consequence of ill health, still at the South; and the Rev. Mr. Cutler, it pains me to add, is obliged, from the same cause for a season, to leave us. The Rev. Joseph H. Coit and the Rev. Richard Peck have also removed from the Diocese. We have a valuable addition to our clerical body in the Rev. William Crosswell from Connecticut. The Rev. Dr. Eaton has resigned the Rectorship of Christ Church, Boston, and officiates as a Missionary in that city. The Rev. Thomas W. Coit has taken the pastoral charge of the Church in Cambridge. The Rev. Mr. Price officiates in Salem, and the Rev. Lot Jones in Leicester. In Springfield is very much need of a clergyman, and also in Southwick. The Rev. Isaac Peck officiates in Gardner, State of Maine, and in Saco the Rev. Mr. Olney. The Rev. Mr. Hard is in Sheldon and Fairfield, Vermont. The Rev. Mr. Tappan is in Arlington, and the Rev. Mr. Horton in Windsor. The Churches in Middlebury, Vergennes, Berkshire, Montgomery and Enosburgh of the same State are vacant. The Rev. Mr. Ballard supplies the Churches vacated by the decease of the Rev. Mr. Richardson. The Rev. Mr. Bristed officiates in Warren, State of Rhode Island. He has made great exertions and sacrifices to obtain aid in building a Church there, though not with all the success that might have been expected. Grace Church in Providence has not yet a Minister; and in South Kingston no one officiates."

"Institutions: The Rev. Clement F. Jones into Trinity Church, Saco; the Rev. Mr. Coit into Christ Church, Cambridge, and the Rev. Mr. Crosswell into Christ Church, Boston."

"New Churches dedicated to the service of God: St. James', Woodstock, St. John's, Ashfield, St. John's, Sutton, and St. Thomas', Taunton. The people who erected them are entitled to much praise for their liberal exertions and pious zeal. The houses are all commodious, and in good taste; the one last named is a very beautiful edifice, and perhaps is no where excelled by one of its size."



“Churches now building: Trinity in Boston, very magnificent and soon to be consecrated; St. Mark’s in Warren; one in Northampton; one in Great Barrington; one in Montgomery, and one in Arlington, in Vermont.”

“New Parishes: Grace Church in Providence; St. Mark’s in Warren, and ——— in Boston. This last has a new and valuable Church edifice, and with due encouragement, may through the Divine blessing, become a valuable acquisition to the Church in that city. The Rev. Mr. Sabine officiates in it.”

“And let it not, beloved friends and brethren, seem irksome to be again and again reminded of the very essential importance of continuing and increasing in love and harmony among ourselves. We must all firmly hold to what we deem the true faith; but should ‘hold it in unity of spirit, and in the bond of peace.’ Let us be well aware of that great infirmity of corrupt nature, which inclines us to differ and with bitterness to contend, about things of little moment. Nothing can be more contrary to the spirit and principles of our Church, which is distinguished from other denominations in nothing more than in its liberality, truly so called. For the bigotry and uncharitableness of individuals, the Church is not answerable. While she firmly adheres to all that is essential to pure Christianity, she allows great latitude for difference of opinion in smaller things. She carries this liberality so far, as to require, as necessary to Church membership, no other ‘Articles of faith,’ than those ‘contained in the Apostles’ Creed,’ to which almost all who pretend to be Christians, might conscientiously subscribe. Let us imbibe her catholic spirit, without abusing it. Let each be persuaded in his own mind, and very cautious how he ‘judges another man’s servant,’ or censures his Christian brethren. I wish in this Diocese to hear no distinction of high Church or low Church, nor of those who are, or those who are not, the Bishop’s friends. Let us take heed how we stand by ourselves as holier or better or more orthodox than others, or as being exclusively Churchmen or Evangelical. They who make the highest claims to Churchmanship, may be deficient in some of its essential principles; and others, in their manner of contending for the doctrines of the cross, may depart from the spirit of the Gospel. Let us so judge, that we be not judged.”



"Since writing the above, my son, the Rev. George Griswold, after a long and distressing illness, has departed this life. His short career and earthly sorrows ceased yesterday, the 27th. Brethren, pray for me." *Episcopal Register*, vol. iv, pp. 165—170.

"The following notice of the consecration of St. James' Church, Woodstock and the Ordination of Professor Hale, which appeared in the "*Vermont Republican and American Yeoman*" the week subsequent, may be here inserted :

"On Sunday Morning last," Sept. 28th, 1828, "St. James' Church, Woodstock, was consecrated to the service of Almighty God, by the Rt. Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese. A large congregation were assembled to witness the solemnities of this interesting occasion, who evinced, by their respectful behaviour and serious attention, their sympathy and good feelings as to the completion of this work, so creditable to the zeal and liberality of the small number of Episcopalians, who undertook, and have thus, by the goodness of God, accomplished this pious work. It is very pleasing, at least to the true Churchman, to notice the very liberal manner in which this Church is not only built but furnished with everything necessary to the decent celebration of Divine Service—with Books, Communion Plate, an Organ and a Bell ; and long may it remain, not only an evidence of the liberal spirit of its founders, but an ornament and a blessing to the flourishing and growing village in which it is situated. This work, we trust, has originated in no spirit of hostility or intolerance towards other persuasions in religion, but purely in a desire to enjoy the institutions of Christianity, as settled at the Reformation, by some of the wisest and best of our English ancestors, and by the holiest of martyrs, upon the model of the most primitive ages of our faith. "

"In the afternoon of the same day, the Rev. Benjamin Hale, Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy in Dartmouth College, was admitted to the Holy Order of Deacons. "

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By the Convention of the Eastern Diocese at Bellows Falls, Sept. 24, 1828, the Constitution of the same was revised, and, according to rule laid over for consideration and adoption by the Convention of this year. By this Convention it was adopted.

The only material alteration, necessary to be here noted, was in the 9th Article of the old Constitution, which was as follows: "No State shall withdraw from this Diocese without the approbation of the House of Bishops." The 8th Article of the revised Constitution which took the place of the 9th Article of the old one, was the following: "Any State belonging to this Diocese may withdraw from the same with the consent of the Convention or in the recess of the Convention of the Standing Committee, the approbation of the Bishop having been first obtained."

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The affair of Berlin, alluded to in the Report of the Prudential Committee in the foregoing Journal, was brought before the Legislature by the Agent of the State. His report and the subsequent action of that body afford some information and material for reflection.

October 19th the Hon. Titus Hutchinson, Agent, made the following "Report:"

TO THE HON. LEGISLATURE OF THE

STATE OF VERMONT, NOW IN SESSION:—

The subscriber, who was appointed an agent in 1824, to commence and prosecute a *scire facias*, to vacate the grant of some right of land, granted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, respectfully reports, to your honors, That he commenced such *scire facias* before the Supreme Court—That the same was removed to the Circuit Court by the said Society, under the provisions of the laws of the United States, and was there tried, upon various sets of special pleadings and demurrers, and the said Circuit Court decided in favor of the said Society—That a writ of error was brought to the Supreme Court of the United States; and on motion of the said Society, and on their showing the value of the premises to be less than two thousand dollars, (the land lying in Berlin) the said court dismissed said writ of error;—so that the object of the *scire facias* has been defeated without obtaining the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States upon the same.

During the whole process, I have thought, and still think, the object well worthy of pursuit, till a final decision upon the merits

shall be obtained. When I selected the town of Berlin, I understood there were improvements on each lot, and that the same were occupied as farms. But it now appears that the buildings occupied were all on other and adjoining lots.

Of the sum of one thousand dollars, appropriated for this object, a little less than three hundred and sixty dollars have been expended, including some charges I have made for assisting to defend an action at law, brought to recover one of those society's rights of land.

Should the Legislature deem it proper to pursue this object, it will be necessary to appoint a new Agent for the purpose; and I should deem it expedient to pass a law, providing for a less expensive mode of notice in all such cases.

The publishing the substance of the *scire facias*, and the order in some one newspaper, for a reasonable period of time, must be sufficient, without publishing the whole process, and order, in two papers, as seems now to be required.

The summary of my account is as follows:

The sums paid out for copies, postage, printing advertisements, services of the writ of error, and clerk fees, amount to	\$ 117.71
My services and travelling expenses, including oral and written arguments and preparations for the same,	\$ 240.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 357.71
Deduct, received from the Treasurer, . . . . .	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 107.71

Which is respectfully submitted, by

TITUS HUTCHINSON.

Montpelier, October 17th, 1829.

Which was read, and on motion of Mr. William A. Palmer, referred to the Judiciary Committee. Journal, 1829, pp. 70, 71.

The Judiciary Committee, on the part of the House consisted of the following members: Messrs. Dennison Smith, Barre; Benjamin F. Bailey, Burlington; William A. Palmer, Danville; Samuel Elliott, Brattleborough. Journal, 1829, p. 31.

October 23d, this Committee, by John C. Thompson, one of the Council, made the following report on the report of the Hon. Titus Hutchinson :

“ TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOW SITTING :—

The Judiciary Committee, to whom the above report was committed, respectfully report, That the balance of the account therein stated, ought to be paid ; and that the said Hutchinson have leave to bring in the accompanying bill. They further report, that in their opinion, it is expedient for the Legislature to appoint an Agent to pursue and complete the business which has been commenced, in the said report stated.

The Committee further report, that in their opinion, it is expedient to pass an act, providing a mode of publishing the notices, in cases described in said report, and, therefore report the accompanying bill.

JOHN C. THOMPSON, for Committee.”

“ Which report was read and concurred in ; and the bill reported by said Committee entitled, ‘an act directing the Treasurer to pay the sum therein mentioned,’ was read the first and second time.”

“ Ordered, That it be engrossed and read a third time.”

“ The other bill reported by said Committee, entitled, ‘an act in addition to an act directing the mode of taking forfeitures of grants and charters,’ was read the first time.”

“ Ordered, that it be read a second time to-morrow morning.”  
Journal, 1829, p. 115.

This last bill passed through the usual stages and became a law. Journal, 1829, pp. 119, 131, 155.

It does not appear from the Journal of 1829, that any Agent was appointed by the Legislature to pursue the course recommended in the foregoing reports.

It is proper to add here an abstract of the decision of the Circuit Court of the United States in the matter of Berlin, rendered by the Hon. Smith Thompson, associate Justice of the Supreme Court, at Rutland, Oct. 1826.

The King of Great Britain granted a charter of a town in that part of the province of New-Hampshire, which is now Vermont,



to be divided among the grantees, and to be held on certain conditions mentioned in the charter. The defendants, who were one of the grantees, were a Society in England, incorporated by a charter from the King. A *scire facias* was issued on behalf of the plaintiffs, requiring the defendants to show cause why a forfeiture of their right to the lands had not been incurred, and assigning as grounds of forfeiture a non-performance of the conditions on which the lands were held, and violations of their charter of incorporation. On demurrer to the *scire facias*, held, that such violations of their charter of incorporation could not be thus collaterally drawn in question, but that it should be vacated by some direct proceeding for the purpose.

Among the conditions of the grant were, that the grantees, their heirs and assigns, should pay rent and cultivate a certain portion of the land: Held, that no reasons of public policy exempted the defendants from the performance of these conditions, and that they were within their letter and spirit.

Each grantee was to pay annually for the first ten years, an ear of corn, rent, for his share of the land, if lawfully demanded: Held, that this was a mere nominal rent, and its non-payment not a ground of forfeiture, and that the breach of the condition was ill assigned, as there was no averment that it had been lawfully demanded.

After the first ten years a rent of one shilling for every hundred acres was to be paid annually to the grantor, in his council chamber in Portsmouth, or to such officer as should be appointed to receive the same: Held, that payment at the place appointed had been rendered impossible by the separation of the countries, and that the plaintiffs should have averred that they had appointed another place of payment, or an officer to receive the payment, and that notice thereof had been given to the defendants.

There was no declaration, but the writ of *scire facias* was demurred to: Held, that the legal effect was the same as if the demurrer had been to the declaration, and the same judgment was ordered to be entered. Leave, however, is given to the defendants to withdraw the demurrer, so far as relates to the breach well assigned, and take issue upon the allegation therein contained. 1 Paine Rep. pp. 652—660.



According to the leave granted in this decision to the defendants to withdraw their demurrer as to breach of contract by failing to cultivate, the case came up the year following and was argued on its merits. Judge Thompson gave in the case the following decision :

On demurrer to several pleas, if any one of them going to the whole merits of the case is well pleaded and contains a full and sufficient answer, it will entitle the defendants to judgment.

At common law, nothing that lies in action, entry or re-entry, can be granted over ; and, therefore, no grantee or assignee of a reversion, can take advantage of a re-entry by force of a condition broken. But if it should be admitted that these principles do not apply to the case, and that the State of Vermont succeeded to all the rights of the crown, other obstacles growing out of the acts of the State itself are presented against the claim of forfeiture. By the act of the 30th of October 1794, the Legislature granted to the town of Berlin, forever, the use of this land for the benefit of the town. The State thereby parted with all the interest it had in these lands, and is estopped thereby from claiming any right thereto. The doctrine of estoppel applies to a State as well as to private persons. When, therefore, a State by an act of its Legislature granted to a town forever the use of certain lands for the benefit of the town, it was held that the State, having parted with all the interest it had in the lands, was estopped from claiming a forfeiture, by reason of a condition broken before the grant was made. Nor would it be a good answer on the part of the State in such case, that the grant to the town was in trust, and that the trust had been violated ; the town not having been made a party to the proceedings, and the act not having been repealed, or any measures taken to resume possession of the land on account of any breach of trust, or violation of the grant.

Any one may perform a condition who has an interest in it, or in the land whereto it is annexed ; and if a time to perform is appointed, the purchaser may perform. When a condition is once performed, it is thenceforth entirely gone, and the thing to which it was before annexed becomes absolute and wholly unconditional. Where the grant to which the condition broken was annexed, was originally made by the British Government, and the title of the

State grew out of the consequences of the Revolution, and the forfeiture was incurred before the State had any interest in the land, it was held that the performance of the town according to the terms of the original grant, subsequent to the grant made to the town by the State, saved the forfeiture. Judgment was given to the defendants upon the demurrer. 2 Paine Rep. pp. 545—563.

T. HUTCHINSON, for the plaintiffs.

J. H. HUBBARD, for the defendants.

## 1830.

Wednesday, May 26th, 1830.

This being the day appointed for the Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, a number of the Clergy, and Lay Delegates, from several of the Churches, assembled in St. Paul's Church, Windsor, at 9 o'clock, A. M., the Rev. Abraham Bronson in the chair.

Present :

Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Zion Church, *Manchester*.

Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of Christ Church, *Bethel*, and St. James' Church, *Woodstock*.

Rev. ANSON B. HARD, Deacon, Minister of Trinity Church, *Fairfield*, and Grace Church, *Sheldon*.

Rev. WILLIAM HORTON, Deacon, officiating at St. Paul's Church, *Windsor*.

Rev. LOUIS McDONALD, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburn*.

Rev. SYLVESTER NASH, Rector of Union Church, *St. Albans*.

Rev. WILLIAM S. PERKINS, Deacon, Minister of St. James' Church, *Arlington*.

Rev. SAMUEL B. SHAW, Rector of Christ Church, *Guilford*.

The following gentlemen appeared, presented their Credentials and took their seats as Lay Delegates :

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER:

TRUMAN PURDY,                      WILLIAM BENEDICK.

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET:

DANIEL FITCH.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS :

ALMON HOPSON.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY :

AMON BAILEY,                      GERSHOM GIFFORD.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, ARLINGTON:

ENOS CANFIELD.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL :

LUTHER GROVER,                      OLIVER GLEASON.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK :

JOHN A. PRATT.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR:

EDWARD R. CAMPBELL,                      SIMEON IDE.

Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen President, and Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the President be, and he hereby is, authorized to invite Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and candidates for Holy Orders in the same, who may be present, to the sittings of the Convention.

The following Clergymen were invited by the President to the sittings of the Convention: Rev. Moore Bingham, of the Diocese of New-York, and Rev. Benjamin Hale, of the State of New-Hampshire.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, that hereafter it shall be considered the duty of the Standing Committee to make report of its proceedings annually to this Convention ; which Report shall be entered on the Journals.

The following Report of the Standing Committee was presented and read :

“At a regular meeting of the Standing Committee of Vermont, holden at Middlebury, on the 22d day of October, A. D. 1829,—present, Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase and Rev. Sylvester Nash,—The Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen President, and Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

The Standing Committee having been informed that Alexander Fleming, Esq. has declined accepting the nomination, made by the last Convention in this State, as an Agent of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Rev. Carlton Chase, Rector of Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, was appointed to supply the vacancy.

George C. V. Eastman was recommended a candidate for Holy Orders.

A true copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the Standing Committee, for the year past.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.”

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to examine the Canons of the General Convention, with a view to ascertain whether there are any matters left by those Canons to be provided for by the State Convention, and as yet remaining unprovided for by this Convention ; and that said Committee report to this Convention.

The following Committee was accordingly appointed : Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap, Edward R. Campbell, Esq.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Nash, the Convention proceeded to the election of the Standing Committee for the year ensuing. The following persons were elected : Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Sylvester Nash, Rev. Samuel B. Shaw.

The business of the Convention was suspended for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning Prayers were read by Rev. Samuel B. Shaw, and a Sermon delivered by Rev. Louis McDonald.

The Holy Communion was then administered, after which the Convention resumed business, and adjourned until 3 o'clock, this afternoon.

Three o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

The Treasurer of the Contingent Fund presented the following Report, which was read and accepted :

JOEL CLAP, TREASURER OF THE CONTINGENT FUND,	
TO THE CONVENTION :	
	DR.
To balance on hand as per last report, . . . . .	\$ 135.92
To contribution from Union Church, St. Albans, received after last Convention, . . . . .	6.00
To collection taken up this day, . . . . .	5.67
Contribution from Christ Church, Bethel, . . . . .	5.00
“ Zion Church, Manchester, . . . . .	2.37
“ Union Church, St. Albans, . . . . .	5.71
“ Christ Church, Guilford, . . . . .	3.25
“ St. John's Church, Poultney, . . . . .	3.00
“ Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, . . . . .	5.50
“ Trinity Church, Fairfield, . . . . .	1.78
“ Grace Church, Sheldon, . . . . .	3.18
	<hr/> 177.38
Interest one year on \$45.67, . . . . .	2.74
	<hr/> 180.12
PER CONTRA :	
	CR.
By amount paid Delegates to General Convention, 80.00	
Paid Secretary of General Convention, . . . . .	5.25
For printing Journals of 1829, . . . . .	11.00
	<hr/> 96.25
Balance on hand this day, . . . . .	83.87

May 26, 1830.

JOEL CLAP, Treasurer.



On motion, Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund be not hereafter charged with interest on the funds in his hands.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Nash, Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to publish six hundred copies of the Journal of this Convention, together with the Constitution and the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State, at the expense of the Contingent Fund.

On motion by Mr. Oliver Gleason, Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund be credited the amount of interest charged him in the foregoing Report.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Nash, Resolved, That the Secretary be authorized to procure a blank book for the records of the Convention, and a trunk for the safe keeping of the records and papers of the same, at the expense of the Contingent Fund.

The following Report was presented by Rev. Mr. Chase, chairman of the Prudential Committee, read and accepted :

Your Committee report, that it is not in their power to lay before you any important facts relative to the Church lands in this State. Few settlements have been made, and few leases executed since the last report. Still the business seems to be moving gradually towards a conclusion. And perhaps it is not in the power of the agencies concerned to hasten it. Many obstacles have occurred, of a very peculiar nature, which scarcely any thing but time and a slow progress of events could remove.

A very important suit, which was pending at the last Convention before the Supreme Court of the United States, has been decided in favour of the Society. It became necessary, however, in consequence of certain papers not being seasonably communicated by that Court to the Circuit Court recently held in Windsor, that both that suit and certain others, should be continued for final trial and judgment to the October term of the Circuit Court.

The Committee, in compliance with a resolution of the last Convention to that effect, have done what they could towards furthering the views of the Convention with respect to a more prompt and efficient agency. They met at Middlebury in October last with the Bishop, Standing Committee, and General Agents, to devise measures with that view. Sundry important papers were prepared to be laid before the Society in England. Those papers, owing to causes not within the control or the present explaining power of your Committee, were not finally executed. That matter lies of course nearly as it did a year since. We regret the delay exceedingly, and hope it can be satisfactorily explained.

C. CHASE, for the Committee.

May 26, 1830.

The following persons were appointed the Prudential Committee for the year ensuing: Rev. Carlton Chase, Edward R. Campbell, Rev. Joel Clap, John A. Pratt.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Nash, Resolved, That the Prudential Committee be and they are hereby directed to prosecute the measures heretofore entrusted to their management, in relation to the Agency of the "Society's Lands," so called, in this State: And also that they be authorized to fill any vacancy which may occur in the Board of Trust heretofore nominated.

The following persons were elected Delegates to the General Convention: Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap, and Rev. Sylvester Nash, of the Clergy. Hon. Dudley Chase, George Cleaveland, Alexander Fleming, Esqrs. and Mr. Cyril Fuller, of the Laity.

The following Parochial Reports were presented and read:

#### ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms — adults 5, children 3; Marriages, 5; Funerals, 7; Communicants, 42. The Sunday School and the state of piety have considerably improved within the past year.

## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, ARLINGTON.

W. S. PERKINS, MINISTER.

The present report embraces a period of only six months, the time of the present Minister's connexion with the Church. The number of communicants is not as large as in former years, owing to deaths and removals. It is now 83—additions 2; Baptisms, 4; Marriage, 1; Deaths, 2.

The temporal prospects of the Parish were never more encouraging. To use the language of a member of the Parish, "Every thing to which we put our hands, connected with the well-being of the Church, prospers." The church is rapidly building, and though it is of stone, and entirely Gothic, we anticipate finishing it in less than a year. For commodiousness and beauty it will not be exceeded by any in the State. We regret to say that the religious condition of the Parish is not equally flattering. We are not, however, without some encouragement in this respect. A convenient lecture room, in which we now assemble, is crowded every Sabbath. The congregation listen to the preaching of the Word with apparent seriousness. Besides the regular services on the Sabbath, we have had a Bible Class on Sabbath evenings, consisting of thirty-five members. The funds of our Missionary Society have been (during the last year) appropriated to the support of a young man at Kenyon College. Sunday Scholars, 70. The Minister has held meetings in different parts of the Parish, and is encouraged to continue this practice by the serious attention of the people.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY.

MOORE BINGHAM, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 8, infants 2)—10; Funerals, 5; Removals, 7, or three families comprising seven members of the congregation; Communicants (added 17), 29; Sunday Scholars, 16.

This Church, during the past year, has sustained a great loss in the death of its Senior Warden and the removal of several families; but has otherwise been greatly blessed and prospered.

It has a Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, a Bible and Common Prayer Book and Tract Society; as also a Sunday

School Society,—all auxiliary to the general institutions of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

A place of worship is much needed, and the Parish have determined to make an effort to erect a small brick church the ensuing year.

It hardly need be said that this small and feeble Parish needs some assistance, if assistance can be had.

### TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURNE.

LOUIS MC DONALD, RECTOR.

Baptisms—adults 2, infants 3; Confirmed, 4; Married, 4; Funerals, 2; Communicants 70.

The state of this Parish is disheartening, and the Rector is compelled to express his belief that it is not as prosperous as at the last meeting of this Convention.

### UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

S. NASH, RECTOR,

Communicants, 45; Baptisms—adults 3, children 6; Confirmations, 9; Funerals, 5; Marriages, 2.

The members of this parish continue to struggle with commendable zeal against the difficulties arising from the smallness of their numbers, and, in addition to former efforts, have since the last Convention, purchased a house and lot for a parsonage, and are now exerting themselves to put it in a better state of repair."

"A prayer meeting has been commenced under very promising circumstances, which is well attended every Sunday evening, and generally conducted by the Laity, as the Rector is often absent to attend a third service at the corner of Fairfax. The Sunday School is in a flourishing condition."

### TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, AND GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

ANSON B. HARD, MINISTER.

The present Minister of these churches took charge of them last July. They were then in a languid condition, not having had a clergyman for some months previous. His prospects at first were

discouraging, but by the Divine blessing upon his labours, a great improvement immediately took place. In Trinity Church there have been 23 Baptisms, 3 Marriages, 8 Funerals. Sunday School Scholars, 80. Communicants, 80. A Parish and Sunday School Library has been established. Exertions are now making to increase the number of books. In Grace Church, there have been 26 Baptisms, 2 Marriages, 6 Funerals, Sunday School Scholars, 40. Members of the Bible Class 20. Communicants, 53. Additions, 10. The Female Missionary Society of these churches is prepared to constitute their pastor a life member of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. The ladies have also made a box of clothing for the family of our Missionary to Greece, the Rev. Mr. Robertson. The Minister attributes much of his gratifying success to frequent lectures, and prayer meetings, which he has held in various parts of his parish. He has also, in company with Rev. Mr. Nash, performed service, and preached in the neighboring towns. A church will probably soon be erected in Highgate.

#### CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (infants), 3; Marriage, 1; Funerals 4; Communicants, 88.

The prospects of our Sunday School are more encouraging, the influence of its library is very salutary, and its members are increasing.

A Missionary Association auxiliary to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society was organized in the Winter, and measures are taken to solicit aid from every member of the Parish, and thus far a very general interest in the Society has been sustained.

#### ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms — adults 2, infants 2; Marriages, 3; Funerals, 2; Communicants, 25.

The condition of this parish is assuming a more permanent aspect; measures are in progress which will probably result in the entire devotion of the labours of the Rector to this Church.



## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

WILLIAM HORTON, MINISTER.

Funerals, 2; Baptisms, 0; Marriages, 2; Sabbath Scholars, 54; Sabbath School Library, 95 volumes.

Bible Class consists of forty members. Eight have been added to the Church. Three received from other churches. Since the commencement of the Bible Class, there has been an increasing attention to the subject of religion.

## IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

CARLTON CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adult 1) — 8; Marriages, 5; Deaths, 2; Communicants, 50.

Parish Library, 165 volumes, nearly all selected works. Provision is made for adding to it about twenty-five dollars a year. In the Sunday School about 60 Scholars, with a Library of two hundred volumes. The Rector has a Bible Class, which has been attended with good effects.

## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

SAMUEL BRENTON SHAW, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 9; Marriages, 13; Deaths, 5; Communicants, 58; Families attending church, in both congregations, not far from 100; Sunday Scholars in do. about 80.

During the past year a fine toned bell has been added to the church in the East Parish, and the edifice in the West Parish has been repaired. An unusual attention to religious subjects exists in the latter parish, from which, with the Divine blessing, we are encouraged to anticipate the most pleasing results. A Sunday School Society, auxiliary to the union of our church, has been formed, which promises greater efficiency in promoting the moral and religious instruction of the young. On the whole, the Rector has abundant cause for gratitude, and encouragement that notwithstanding many difficulties, the prospects of this portion of the Zion of our God are more encouraging than at any former period of his connection with it.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Hard, Resolved, That the next annual Convention be held in St. James' Church, Arlington.

Rev. William Horton was appointed to preach before the next Convention, and Rev. Sylvester Nash appointed his substitute.

On motion, Convention adjourned until 6 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Thursday, May 27, 6 o'clock, A. M.

Convention met according to adjournment.

Rev. Mr. Chase, on behalf of the Committee appointed yesterday to examine the Canons, made a verbal report ; whereupon it was Resolved, That the subject be recommitted to the same Committee, to report to the next Convention. After Prayers by the President, adjourned without day.

A true Record.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

## CONSTITUTION

OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE STATE OF VERMONT, AS REVISED AND ADOPTED IN CONVENTION, A. D. 1820, 1824 AND 1827.

ARTICLE I. The various Churches in Vermont shall be considered as united in one Convention, in subordination to the General Convention of the United States.

ART. II. The said Convention shall meet annually on the last Wednesday in May, at such place as shall be appointed at a previous meeting ; and all the Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, residing in this State, shall be entitled to seats in this Convention ; and Lay Delegates from the several Churches in this State, shall be entitled to seats in the said Convention in the following proportion, viz. each Church shall have the privilege of sending at least one member ; if it consists of ten or more communicants, it may send two members ; and for every twenty-five communicants

exceeding the number above specified, the said Churches shall be entitled to one additional member.

ART. III. The Convention shall deliberate and act in one body ; but shall vote in distinct orders, when any member shall call for such a division on any one question ; and in such case a concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary to constitute a vote.

ART. IV. A President, Secretary, and Standing Committee shall be chosen at every annual meeting of the Convention ; also the requisite Delegation shall be annually appointed to represent this State in the General Convention.

*Provided*, however, That no person shall be a member of the Standing Committee, or shall represent this State in the General Convention, unless he be a regular communicant in the Church. *Provided*, also, That when the Bishop of the Diocese shall be present in Convention, he shall, *ex officio*, be President.

The Convention may from time to time, if deemed expedient, appoint a Prudential Committee to superintend the prudential concerns of the Church.

ART. V. If at any time a Bishop is to be elected by this Convention, the Secretary, by order of the President or Standing Committee, shall write to the Minister or one of the Wardens of each Church, at least six weeks before the election is to take place, and give notice of the time and place appointed for such election, and request that Delegates may attend the Convention for the purpose ; and in every such election, the Convention shall vote in distinct orders—the Clerical order shall make a nomination by ballot, and a majority of the Lay Delegates shall approve the appointment, before the person shall be considered elected.

ART. VI. No alteration shall be made in this Constitution except in annual Convention ; nor unless proposed and reduced to writing at a previous Convention.

ART. VII. The Bishop or Standing Committee shall have power to call a special Convention, by giving six weeks previous notice to the Minister or one of the Wardens of each particular Church.

## CANONS

OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE STATE  
OF VERMONT, ADOPTED IN CONVENTION AT  
MIDDLEBURY, JUNE 24, 1823.

### CANON I.

OF THE MODE OF TRYING CLERGYMEN ACCUSED OF MISDEMEANOR.

Whenever the Standing Committee shall have reason to suspect any Clergyman of this Church to be guilty of infidelity, heresy, vice, or irregularity of any kind, it shall be their duty to inquire into the circumstances of the case; and if, upon such inquiry, they are convinced that there exists sufficient cause of complaint, they shall represent the same to the Bishop, at the same time stating specifically whereof the party is accused; whereupon, by order of the Bishop, a council of Presbyters, consisting of not less than three, shall be convened, who, under the direction of the Bishop, shall proceed in due time to try the party accused; a copy of the accusation or accusations, and twenty days notice of the time and place of trial being first communicated to such party. And furthermore, it shall be the duty of the Standing Committee, at such trial, to lay before the Bishop and his Presbyters, such evidence as they may be able to obtain relative to the case under investigation.

### CANON II.

OF THE FORMING AND ORGANIZING OF CHURCHES.

Whenever any number of persons in this State shall form themselves into a regular society of the Protestant Episcopal faith, in such a manner as that they will become a body corporate according to law, and their proceedings shall be sanctioned by the Bishop of the Diocese and Standing Committee of this State; or in case of a vacancy in the Episcopal office, by the State Conven-

tion or its Standing Committee, they shall be admitted to all the rights and privileges of a regular church, subject at all times to the authority and discipline of said Bishop, or in case of a vacancy in the Episcopal office, of said Convention or its Standing Committee.

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The following paragraphs from the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Annual Convention of the Eastern Diocese held in Trinity Church, Boston, Sept. 29, 1830, properly belong to the foregoing Journal. They are copied from the Journal of the Convention :

“Again, Respected Friends and Brethren, has the rapid course of revolving time brought about the season of our annual Convention ; and, through the Lord’s patient goodness, we are once more permitted to assemble and take counsel together on what concerns that portion of the Lord’s Vineyard committed to our care.”

“ In laying before you, as our rules require, a view of the progress of our labour, and the present state of our Churches, we shall have cause, more than on the like occasions preceding, to lament our want of laborers, and of missionary funds. Far from extending our borders, and increasing the number of our Churches, as in all human appearance might, with adequate means, have been easily done ; in many parts of the Diocese we have scarce been able to maintain the ground which we before possessed. A considerable number of our parishes, from being so long either wholly vacant or destitute of any permanent ministrations, are, we fear, declining. That so many of those whom we bring forward for the sacred ministry should leave us, and our Churches be left to suffer, has caused me very great anxiety and sorrow. But still we have much cause of thankfulness to Him whose mercy endureth forever. All have not forsaken us, and they who have left this Diocese, will labour profitably no doubt in other parts of our country ; and Christians cannot be too cautious how they are influenced by local partialities, or selfish views. Those of our Churches, which have had the constant labours of pious, faithful ministers, have generally been blessed with prosperity and increase.”

“ ‘To depart and be with Christ is better’ for His faithful ministers, than any good which they can hope for in this present life ;



but to abide here is more needful for His Church ; and it is an additional cause of thankfulness that the clergy of this Diocese have generally been blessed with life and health. Till within a few mournful weeks, I had indulged the hope of congratulating my clerical brethren on this occasion, and reporting, that, during the year past, none had by death been taken from our number ; but recent and mournful tidings have brought us a very painful exception. I scarce need mention what you all so well know and feel, that the highly respected Rector of this Church"—the Rev. J. S. J. Gardner, D. D.—"has been removed from his labor here on earth. Many recollections of things past, and other affecting considerations, must on this occasion fill our hearts with sadness, 'sorrowing most of all that we shall see his face no more.' With his surviving family, and many worthy, ardent friends, we are called, and, I trust, we are all disposed to mingle the sympathizing tear ; and also to lift our hearts in humble prayer to the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, that He will sanctify this mournful event to the congregation of His people who worship in this house ; that the death of him, who has so long labored in word and doctrine among them, may be so blessed as to conduce to their spiritual benefit. To us of the clergy, and to myself chiefly, should this bereavement be an awakening admonition to be faithful and diligent in whatever our hand findeth to do, and prepared to render an account of our stewardships."

"During the year now past, several of the most promising, useful and eminent of our clergy, in other parts of our country, have been called from their labour, to receive their reward ; and among them are numbered two of our most able, zealous and active Bishops, arrested by the messenger of God in the midst of their usefulness and honors :'' Bishops Ravenscroft and Hobart. "*But being dead they will yet speak*, and by us may their voice be so heard, as to awaken in us all a more ardent desire to emulate their zeal, and share with them in glory. Many view it as what they term *a mysterious providence*, that, in such frequent instances, those ministers of Christ, of whom we have the highest expectations, and seemingly the Church has most need, should the first, and the earliest in life, be taken away. But God seeth not as men see : in His unerring wisdom this may be one of the reasons that they are taken

from us : we think of them too highly : we naturally and very much incline to ascribe to human talent, and secondary causes, the glory which belongs to God only. Our idols it may be are removed, that the Lord may be our God. But for whatever purpose, in the counsels of unerring wisdom, we are thus visited, it is evidently the duty of us, who are yet spared, to redeem the time ; to be more active and diligent in performing the duties, and increasing the numbers of the ministers of Christ."

"In this Diocese, in the past year, the increase has been but small. Three only, Henry Blackaller, Silas A. Crane and Chauncey Colton, have been ordained Deacons. The Rev. Messrs. James Sabine, Isaac Peck, Henry Blackaller, Samuel Fuller, George W. Hathaway and Edward Ballard, Deacons, have been admitted to the order of Presbyters. George V. C. Eastman, Jacob Pierson, Ephraim Monroe, Matthias Monroe, Charles E. Leverett, Joseph M. Brown, Samuel B. Babcock, Josiah M. Bartlett, Francis A. Foxcroft, Samuel M'Burney and Mark Anthony D'Wolfe Howe, eleven in number, and four of them natives of Bristol, in Rhode Island, have been admitted as Candidates for Holy Orders.—George Bridgman, one of our former Candidates, has left this Diocese, being regularly dismissed. Also, the Rev. Messrs. Orange Clark, James H. Tyng, Thomas S. W. Mott, Norris M. Jones and James M. Tappan, have taken, at their own request, letters dimissory to other parts of the country. The Rev. Chauncey Colton is officiating in the Diocese of New-York. The Rev. George Leonard did also take a dismission to Virginia ; but has since returned, and we hope may continue his labors in this Diocese. The Rev. William S. Perkins, the Rev. Samuel Fuller, and the Rev. William S. Potter, I am happy to state, have been added unto us ; and the Rev. George W. Hathaway, who had for some time resided among us, has been also canonically transferred to this Diocese."

"In Vermont the Churches in Berkshire, Montgomery and some other places, are still vacant and suffering. The ministry of the Rev. Mr. Hard in Fairfield and in Sheldon is much blessed. He and the Rev. Mr. Nash perform missionary duties in several towns adjoining, and with good effect. The liberality of the little parish in St. Albans, and their pious exertions to support

their minister and in purchasing a house for his use are worthy of much praise. The parish in Arlington has, with much cordiality and affection, called and received the Rev. Mr. Perkins as their minister, and go forward with the building of a beautiful stone Church. The Churches in Woodstock and Bethel, have, with like zeal, determined to have a minister in each. Their beloved pastor, the Rev. Mr. Clap, resides now and labors in Woodstock. The Rev. Mr. Sabine from Boston, it is hoped, will take the pastoral charge of the Church in Bethel, and the Rev. Mr. Crane from Providence, of that in Middlebury. Should the latter parish after being so long destitute and suffering, be at length happily supplied, it will ease me of much painful anxiety. The Rev. Mr. Horton is called to the pastoral charge of the Church in Windsor, where he has through the year successfully labored, and where it is expected that he will be ordained."

"On the 15th of July" 1830, the house erected in Warren, R. I. "called St. Mark's Church, was consecrated to God's holy worship. And in the afternoon of the same day, the Rev. Mr. Hathaway was admitted to the Order of Priests, and Mr. Crane was ordained Deacon."

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The "very important suit" mentioned in the Report of the Prudential Committee as recently decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, was that of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts against The Town of Pawlet. This decision was rendered at the January Term, 1830.

The case was argued by Mr. Webster, for the Plaintiffs, and by Mr. Doddridge, for the Defendants. Mr. Doddridge also presented the written argument of Mr. J. C. Wright, for the defendants, as did Mr. Webster, an argument for the plaintiffs, prepared by the counsel in the Circuit Court of Vermont.

Mr. Justice Story delivered the opinion of the Court; Mr. Justice Baldwin dissenting on the first point.

This cause is certified to this Court from the Circuit Court for the District of Vermont, upon certain points upon which the Judges of that court were opposed in opinion.

The original action was an ejectment, in the nature of a real

action, according to the local practice, in which no fictitious persons intervene; and it was brought in May 1824, to recover a certain lot of land, being the first division lot laid out to the right of a Society in the town of Pawlet. The Plaintiffs are described in the writ as "The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a corporation duly established in England, within the dominions of the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the members of which Society are aliens and subjects of said King." The defendants pleaded the general issue, not guilty, which was joined; and the cause was submitted to a jury for trial. By agreement of the parties at the trial, at the October Term of the Circuit Court 1828, the jury were discharged from giving any verdict; upon the disagreement of the Judges upon the points growing out of the facts stated in the record. The points were: First; Whether the Plaintiffs have shown that they have any right to hold lands? Second; Whether the Plaintiffs are barred by the three years limitation in the Act of the 27th of October 1785, or any other of the statutes of limitation? Third; Whether, under the laws of Vermont, the plaintiffs are entitled to recover *mesne profits*; and if so, for what length of time? These points have been argued before us; and it remains for me to pronounce the Decision of the Court.

The defendants pleaded the general issue of not guilty. This plea admits the competency of the plaintiffs to sue in the corporate capacity in which they have sued. If the defendants meant to have insisted upon the wants of a corporate capacity in the plaintiffs to sue, it should have been insisted upon by a special plea in abatement or bar. Pleading to the merits has been held by this court to be an admission of the capacity of the plaintiffs to sue. But the point here raised is not so much whether the plaintiffs are entitled to sue generally as a corporation, as whether they have shown a right to hold lands. The general issue admits not only the competency of the plaintiffs to sue, but to sue in the particular action which they bring. But in the present case, we think, there is abundant evidence in the record to establish the right of the corporation to hold the lands in controversy. It was given to them by the royal charter of 1761, which created the town of Pawlet. Among the grantees therein named, is "the



Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," to whom one share in the township is given. This is a plain recognition by the crown, of the existence of the corporation, and of its capacity to take. It would confer the power to take the lands, even if it had not previously existed. The Society received various other donations of the same nature, and accepted them. Besides, the Act of 1794, under which the town of Pawlet claims the lands, distinctly admits the existence of the corporation, and its capacity to take the very land in controversy, their title to hold being divested, and vested in the State by the Revolution. This question was decided in the case of the Society against New-Haven. In that case it was held that the Revolution did not divest the title of the Society.

A certificate ought accordingly to be sent to the Circuit Court, that the Plaintiffs have shown that they have a right to hold the lands in controversy.

Upon the second question, viz: Whether the Plaintiffs are barred by the three years limitation in the Act of the 27th of October, 1785, or any other of the statutes of limitation? — our opinion is that the Plaintiffs are not barred by the three years limitation, in the Act of 27th of October, 1785, or by any other of the statutes of limitations of Vermont.

There are good grounds why statutes of limitation should not be applied against grants for public, pious, and charitable uses when they may well be applied against mere private rights. The public have a deep and permanent interest in such charities; and that interest far outweighs all considerations of mere private convenience.

Upon the third question, viz. Whether, under the laws of Vermont, the Plaintiffs are entitled to recover *mesne profits*, and, if so for what length of time? — the court held that the Act of the 15th of November, 1820, which prohibits the recovery of *mesne profits* in certain cases, applies to the claims to such profits by the Plaintiffs, except in so far as they can bring their case within the provisions of the third section of that act. The treaty of peace of 1783, and the British treaty of 1794, do not apply to the case. The right of action, if any, of the plaintiffs, did not accrue until the year 1795. The entry then of the defendants was the first ouster:



and at that time, in the action of ejectment, the plaintiffs could not have recovered any damages; but would have been driven to an action of trespass for *mesne profits*. The Legislature was competent to regulate the remedy by ejectment, and to limit its operation. It has so limited it. It has taken away by implication the right to recover *mesne profits*, as consequential upon the recovery in ejectment, and given the party his damages in the latter action. It has prescribed the restrictions upon which *mesne profits* shall be recovered; and these restrictions are obligatory upon the citizens of the State. The Plaintiffs have not, in this particular, any privileges by treaty beyond those of citizens. They take the benefit of the statute remedy to recover their right to the lands; and they must take the remedy with all the statute restrictions. 9 Curtis' Reports, 160—168. (4 Peters, 480.)

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Although in advance of the Journal, yet, in order to finish the affair of Pawlet, it may be well to mention here that the Selectmen of Pawlet petitioned the Legislature in 1831, "for remuneration for expenses incurred in defending suits brought by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," as did also the Selectmen of Danby for a similar purpose. These petitions, by the recommendation of the Committee on Claims, were referred to the Legislature of 1832. Journal 1831, pp. 16, 17, 88.

In the session of the Legislature in 1832, these petitions were again taken up, referred to the Committee on Claims, reported on and dismissed. Journal 1832, pp. 19, 78.

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1831.

ARLINGTON, 25th May, 1831.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont was opened according to appointment.

Sylvester Deming was appointed President, and Enos Canfield, Secretary pro tempore. The Convention was then adjourned to meet at this place on the last Wednesday in August next.

Attest, ENOS CANFIELD, Secretary pro tem.

ARLINGTON, August 31, 1831.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, met according to adjournment in the Vestry Room of St. James' Church, Arlington, on Wednesday, August 31, 1831, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Present :

The Right Rev. ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD, D. D., President,  
ex officio.

Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Zion Church, *Manchester*.

Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of St. James' Church, *Woodstock*.

Rev. SILAS A. CRANE, Rector of St. Stephen's Church,  
*Middlebury*.

Rev. WILLIAM HORTON, Minister of St. Paul's Church,  
*Windsor*.

Rev. LOUIS McDONALD, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburne*.

Rev. WILLIAM S. PERKINS, Deacon, Minister of St. James' Church, *Arlington*.

Rev. JAMES SABINE, Rector of Christ Church, *Bethel*.

Rev. Joel Clap was appointed Secretary.

The following gentlemen presented their Credentials, and took their seats as Lay Delegates :

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, ARLINGTON:

SYLVESTER DEMING, SIMEON COLE.

SAMUEL S. BAKER, ENOS CANFIELD.

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER:

CYREL FULLER, JOHN C. ROBERTS.

DAVID DYER,

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET:

DANIEL FITCH. ASHBEL HOLLISTER.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY:

AMON BAILEY, TIMOTHY MARSHALL.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, RUTLAND:

PORTER HOWE.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY:  
DORASTUS WOOSTER,                      GEORGE CLEAVELAND.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:  
JOHN RICHARDSON.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:  
OLIVER GLEASON,

CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD:  
EDWARD HOUGHTON, Jr.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS:  
JOHN C. HOPSON,                      DAVID LEWIS.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the President be, and hereby is, requested to invite Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and Candidates for Holy Orders in the same, who may be in town during the session of this Convention, to honorary seats in the same.

The following Clergymen appeared and took their seats in pursuance of the provision of the foregoing resolution: Rev. William H. Mitchell, of South-Carolina, Rev. Phineas L. Whipple, Rev. Moore Bingham, and Rev. Alva Bennet, of New-York; Rev. Samuel B. Shaw, Rev. Silas Blaisdell, of Massachusetts, Rev. Edward Ballard, of New-Hampshire.

The following communication from the Secretary of the Convention of Massachusetts was read, and referred to a Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen: Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Carlton Chase, and Hon. Dorastus Wooster, to report thereon to this Convention.

CAMBRIDGE, June 25, 1831

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE STATE OF VERMONT:

GENTLEMEN:—At the last Convention of our Church, in the State of Massachusetts, the following report of a Committee for the purpose therein named, was accepted by nearly a unanimous vote:

“The Committee, appointed to consider the propriety and expediency of erecting Massachusetts into a separate Diocese, and if practicable, the means of accomplishing it, respectfully report :

That if such an arrangement can be effected, with the concurrence and approbation of the other States, with which it is now connected, and the Episcopal jurisdiction of the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold be retained, it is in the highest degree expedient and desirable, not only as respects Massachusetts, but likewise for the sister States of the Eastern Diocese ; the prosperity of the Church in each depending mainly, under God, on the constant oversight and frequent visitations of its spiritual father.

As to the means :—The Committee recommend, that the Secretary of this Convention be instructed to communicate this report to the several Standing Committees of Rhode Island, Vermont, New-Hampshire, and Maine, earnestly and affectionately commending the proposition to their consideration and earliest attention.

E. A. NEWTON, Chairman.”

“Allow me now, in obedience to my directions, earnestly and affectionately to request your attention, at as early a date as possible, to the proposed withdrawment of Massachusetts from the Eastern Diocese ; and that you will take such measures to forward the end desired by our Convention, as will accomplish it in the shortest time, consistent with safety, propriety, and the dictates of Christian courtesy and duty.

Very respectfully, &c.

T. W. COIT, Secretary of Conv. of Mass.

To the S. C. of the P. E. Ch.

in the State of Vermont.”

The following report of the Prudential Committee was presented, read and accepted :

TO THE CONVENTION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE STATE OF VERMONT, ASSEMBLED AT ARLINGTON, AUGUST 31, 1831,—

The Prudential Committee in presenting their annual report, beg leave to state,

That judging by information, received from authentic sources, and by measures in which they have borne a part, they feel justi-

fied in expressing the opinion, that the long series of difficulties, which the Church has had to encounter, beyond all possibility of prevention or foresight, in maintaining its just rights of property in this State, are about drawing to a happy close. Judgments have been rendered in favor of the Society in all cases hitherto carried into Court. Hence if we consider the course, which has been pursued, and the nature of the cases presented for adjudication, there would seem to remain no debatable questions.

Sometime last spring, the General Agents directed their Attorney to bring suits in all cases where towns or individuals refused to surrender the lands of the Society. But being unable to procure the necessary information concerning the situation of the lands in season for the May Term of the Court, the Attorney states that no suits have yet been commenced. Some surrendries have been obtained, and some leases effected since the last report; though the Committee are not able to say to what extent. There is reason to expect, that the business will now be pushed with all convenient dispatch; more especially, if the Agents shall be successful in obtaining the aid, which they hope, of the gentlemen who have been nominated and recommended to the Venerable Society to be added to the present body of Agents. The united wishes of the Agents, and of the Convention on this point have been carried towards effect, so far as depended on measures to be taken here.

The following were the persons nominated and recommended by the Convention, with the concurrence of the Agents: to wit: Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard, Hon. Dorastus Wooster, Jonathan Hagar, Esq. and the Rev. Carlton Chase.

Documents, supposed to be sufficient to sustain these nominations—also to obtain some advantageous and necessary modifications of the original Power of Attorney, were about one year since prepared by the Prudential Committee in connection with the Agents. Early in October, these in a completed state, were put into the hands of George Atkinson, Esq. of the City of London, then and now in this country, and by him were transmitted immediately to his correspondent in London. They were duly received and an assurance returned, that they should be laid before the Directors of the Society at the very first opening presen-



ted by their forms of business. And Mr. Atkinson has no doubt, that an answer will be obtained and returned as soon as those forms will possibly admit. It is indeed expected daily.

Respecting the state of the Treasury and the Treasurer's books, and the income of lands already secured and leased, the Committee are not prepared to make statements. If an apology is needed, it may be found in the discouraging difficulties, which have heretofore lain in the way of this part of the duty assigned them by the Convention—added to the consideration of their residing at a great distance from the seat of the Agency business.

CARLTON CHASE, for the Committee.

The following gentlemen were appointed the Prudential Committee for the year ensuing : Rev. Carlton Chase, Edward R. Campbell, Rev. Joel Clap, John A. Pratt.

On motion, proceeded to the election of the Standing Committee for the present year, when the following gentlemen were chosen : Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Sylvester Nash, Rev. Silas A. Crane.

The Committee appointed by the last Convention to examine the Canons of the Church, and report whether any, and if any what further Canons are necessary to be adopted by this Convention, submitted a report, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The business of the Convention was then suspended for the purpose of attending Divine Service, to be resumed immediately after Divine Service, in St. James' Church.

St. James' Church was then consecrated by the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold.

Morning Prayer was read by Rev. Mr. Ballard, and the Sermon delivered by the Right Rev. Bishop. After which the business of the Convention was resumed, and adjourned to meet in the Vestry Room of St. James' Church, at two o'clock, P. M.

Two o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment, and adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Evening Prayer was read by Rev. Mr. Mitchell, and a Sermon delivered by the Right Rev. Bishop. After which the Convention met according to adjournment.

The following Report of the Standing Committee was presented and read :

At a regular meeting at which all the members were present, holden at Windsor, on the 26th day of May, 1830, Rev. A. Bronson was appointed President, and Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

On the 27th day of May, present as on the day previous, the requisite testimonials in favor of Rev. William Horton, Deacon, recommending him to the Bishop, for Priest's Orders were executed

At a regular meeting holden at Middlebury, on the 7th day of July, 1830, Present, Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Sylvester Nash, the requisite testimonial in favor of the consecration of the Rev. William Murray Stone, Bishop elect of the Diocese of Maryland, were duly executed.

At a regular meeting holden at Perkinsville in Weathersfield, on the 1st day of November, 1830, Present, Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase, the requisite testimonial in favor of the consecration of the Rev. Benjamin Tredwell Onderdonk, Bishop elect of the Diocese of New-York, was duly executed.

On the 23d day of August, 1831, the requisite testimonial in favor of Rev. Silas A. Crane, Deacon, recommending him to the Bishop, for Priest's Orders, was executed.

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

The Committee to whom was referred the communication from the Secretary of the Convention of Massachusetts, submitted the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That this Convention fully concur with the Convention of Massachusetts, in the conviction, that it is expedient, and desirable, that, as soon as circumstances permit, arrangements be made for dividing the Eastern Diocese into smaller Episcopal jurisdictions.

Resolved, also, That this Convention cannot contemplate without the most sensible pain, any measures, whose effect may be to deprive the Church in Vermont, of the Episcopal services of her present excellent and greatly beloved Bishop, —and that nothing would induce this Convention to consent to such measures but a belief that the prosperity of the Churches requires them.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Clap, the report of the Committee upon the Canons was taken up, whereupon the following Canons as reported by said Committee were adopted:

### CANON III.

#### OF THE TRIAL OF PERSONS REPELLED FROM THE COMMUNION.

In case any member of this Church, repelled from the Holy, Communion, shall make complaint to the Bishop, and demand a trial according to the third Canon of the General Convention of 1817, the Bishop with two presbyters of this Diocese shall proceed with all reasonable dispatch to investigate the facts, in the parish where the complaining party resides; thirty days notice being given to said party and also to the repelling Minister. And the Bishop with advice of his presbyters shall affirm or reverse the repulsion, or proceed to severer measures, even to the excommunication of the party tried, as in their judgment the facts shall require. Or the Bishop may direct any three presbyters of the Diocese to hold such investigation, who shall report the facts to him, with their opinion of the award which the facts require. And the Bishop, if he approve, shall pronounce judgment accordingly.

### CANON IV.

#### CONCERNING COUNCILS IN CASE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MINISTERS AND THEIR CONGREGATIONS.

It is hereby ordered that every Council called by the Bishop, or Convention or Standing Committee, for the settlement of differences between ministers and their congregations, shall consist of the Bishop and at least three pres-

byters, or, in the absence of the Bishop, of at least five presbyters, who shall make report to the Bishop. And in all cases the parties concerned shall have twelve days notice of the time and place of holding the Council. (See Canon 32, of General Convention.)

On motion by Rev. Mr. Crane, Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be, and hereby is, directed to make application to the next Diocesan Convention and to the several State Conventions in the Eastern Diocese for permission to erect this State into a separate Diocese as soon as such separation can regularly be effected.

The following Parochial Reports were presented and read:

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET.

DANIEL FITCH, SENIOR WARDEN.

Communicants, 26; Confirmations, 3.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY.

MOORE BINGHAM, RECTOR.

Communicants, 40 — added 9; Baptisms, (adults 8, infants 6) — 14; Marriage, 1; Funerals, 2; Confirmations, 29; a part of which number is of persons belonging to the parish of St. John's, in Rutland. Sunday Scholars, 25.

The new Church is in progress, and will probably be finished in six or eight weeks.

The associations in the parish are a Bible, Prayer Book, Tract, Sunday School and Missionary Associations; also a Female Circle of Industry, for charitable purposes.

The circumstances and prospects of the parish may gratefully be represented as prosperous.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, RUTLAND.

MOORE BINGHAM, VISITING MINISTER.

Communicants, the number not known, but probably 10 or 12.

This parish has been a long time destitute of a Clergyman; but it is thought that they would have no difficulty in employing

a Clergyman one half of the time, and joined with Castleton or some other town might doubtless support one for the whole time.

There are at this time in it several candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and the Lord's Supper; and the subscriber has no doubt that, with some reasonable share of assistance, this parish might soon be revived and greatly enlarged.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS.

DAVID LEWIS, JOHN C. HOPSON, WARDENS.

Communicants, 20; Baptisms, 3; Confirmations, 3.

This parish at present is under the charge of Rev. Mr. Bennet, in connection with the Church in Granville; yet we hold our parish meeting separately, and have our share of preaching, which at present amounts to one fourth of the time.

### ST. JAMES' CHURCH ARLINGTON.

W. S. PERKINS, MINISTER.

Baptisms 18, 10 adults; Marriages 3; Deaths 3; Communicants 112; (added 29) Confirmed 37.

The Minister of this parish can say with thankfulness to the Giver of all good that it has never been in a more interesting condition either temporally, or spiritually, than it is at present. The Church, the corner stone of which was laid by our Bishop eighteen months ago, is now completed and consecrated. In every respect it fully satisfies the feelings of its builders. Its cost, exclusive of labor done by the parishioners themselves, of which no account has been taken, is estimated at ten thousand dollars, the whole of which is paid by the parish.

### ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults), 13; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 4; Communicants, 54.

The Divine goodness has been unusually manifested in the advancement of piety in this parish for a few months past. There have been considerable additions to the Communion; and the work of grace appears to be still going on among the people.



Seventeen persons have recently been confirmed in this Church, and seven belonging here have been confirmed to-day in Arlington.

### ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

S. A. CRANE, RECTOR.

Baptisms—infants 2, adults 3; Communicants (added 8), present number 44; Confirmations, 9; Marriages, 8; Funerals, 10; Sunday School 60. Collection on Easter Sunday, for the Diocesan Missionary fund, \$10.50. One Bible, and one Missionary Society. This report embraces only a period of about ten months, the time of the present Rector's connexion with the Society. During this period the Sunday School has been organized; and a library of one hundred and thirty volumes collected. This Church has had many difficulties to encounter; but it is hoped they are now principally removed. Apparently it is in a prosperous state, and the congregation is increasing. With gratitude to the great Head of the Church for the success that has already attended his labors, the Rector hopes that he shall continue to be prospered in his exertions to promote pure and undefiled religion in this branch of our Zion.

### TRINITY CHURCH, SHELBURN.

LOUIS MC DONALD, RECTOR.

Baptisms—infants 4, adults 3; Confirmed, 5; Marriages, 6; Funerals 11; Communicants 70.

The state of this parish is more prosperous than at the meeting of the last Convention.

### UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

SYLVESTER NASH, RECTOR.

Baptisms—adults 10, infants 7; Confirmations, 24; Funerals, 3; Marriages, 5; Communicants, 50.

### TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, AND GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON.

The prospects of these parishes have never at any former period been more encouraging, than within the year past. In Trinity Church there have been 19 Baptisms, 9 Funerals. Sunday

School Scholars, 75 ; Communicants, 90. Additions to the number of communicants, 16. In Grace Church Sheldon, there have been 35 Baptisms, 3 Funerals, Sunday School Scholars, 40. Communicants, 78 ; additions, 25. During the year, between the services on the Sabbath, a Bible class has been attended, which has been much blest, nearly every member of which is hopefully pious. The ladies of these parishes by the payment of thirty dollars have constituted their pastor a life member of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Auxiliary to this society, Associations have been formed in both parishes, with which most of the children, as well as communicants, are connected. The increase and prosperity of the parishes is unquestionably identified with the increase of a missionary spirit. If this spirit is cherished, the parishes will grow and prosper, whatever obstacle may oppose. But if the claims of domestic and foreign missions are disregarded, they will inevitably languish and die. This point has been repeatedly urged upon the attention of the parishes as one of vital importance. Within a little more than one year, one hundred and seventy-five Prayer Books have been disposed of. The circulation of tracts published by the Protestant Episcopal press, such as the McEllen Family, &c. has, by the blessing of God, had a wonderful effect in dissipating prejudices and in preparing the minds of the people for a warm and hearty reception of the Prayer Book. In the month of April last, the Rev. Mr. Hard resigned the charge of these parishes, and accepted an invitation to take charge of Trinity Church, Plattsburgh, N. Y. Since that time they have been destitute, excepting a few Sabbaths which have been occupied by the Rev. Aaron Humphrey. The leading members have with commendable zeal kept up the regular services of the church, and had a sermon read, which has in a good degree kept them together in the unity of the spirit and in the bond of peace. The Rev. Mr. Hard preached two Sabbaths in the winter in the town of Highgate, adjoining Sheldon. In that town the foundation of a church edifice was laid in the Spring, and by another season will be ready for consecration. This has been commenced by a few liberal, benevolent, warm hearted souls, who love the Church, "the pillar and ground of the truth," and ardently desire its prosperity.

## CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

RICHARD PECK, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 18, infants 16) — 34; Funerals, 4; Marriages, 1; Sunday Scholars, 40; Confirmed, 30; Communicants (added 40, removed and died 5) — 95.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

RICHARD PECK, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 9, infants 4)—13; Funeral, 1; Sunday Scholars, 50; Confirmed, 18; Communicants (added 25)—80.

These churches have recently experienced a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

## CHRIST'S CHURCH, ENOSBURGH.

RICHARD PECK, MINISTER.

Baptisms, 4; Confirmed, 4; Communicants, (added 3, suspended 1,)—11.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JAMES SABINE, RECTOR.

Present number of Communicants (removed to other places 7, by death 4, added this year 6)—83; Baptisms (adults 4, infants 5)—9; Sunday School, 26; Bible Class, 16; Confirmed, 23.

The Missionary Society stands as last year.

The residence of the present Minister has been only from last October, his institution as Rector took place on the late visitation of the Bishop, eleventh Sunday after Trinity, August 14th. The state of the parish is somewhat promising; and with diligent labor and the Divine Blessing it is hoped the Church will continue to hold on her way.

## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms—adults 3, infants 4; Marriage, 1; Communicants, 26.

The undersigned removed to this parish soon after the last meeting of this Convention, in 1830, since which time his services

have been exclusively devoted to the same. Although there has not been by any means that increase of spiritual religion which is ardently desired, yet, through the goodness of God, the congregation has been gradually increasing, and there seems to be indications of increasing seriousness, which we earnestly pray may result in a general excitement of religious feeling. Our Sunday School Library has been recently enlarged, and the condition of the School upon the whole was never more prosperous.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

W. HORTON, OFFICIATING MINISTER.

Communicants, 60; Baptisms, 8; Confirmations, 16; Sunday Scholars, 62; Funerals, 3.

### IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

CARLTON CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms (7 adults, 5 children)—12; Marriages, 4; Deaths, 4; Communicants, 45; Sunday Scholars, 75; Sunday School Library, 300 volumes; Parish Library, 180 volumes.

The Rector regrets the necessity of reporting a diminished list of Communicants. The pleasure of adding twelve new names has not been sufficient to counterbalance the pain of losing, by death and changes of residence, a still greater number. Yet the bread is on the waters somewhere, and will be found. The congregation has never been so large as it is now. It has indeed outgrown our edifice,—insomuch that measures are in contemplation for making an addition to it; which will probably be effected during the next season. The weekly Bible Class, reported in former years, continues to be well attended. The Rector is disposed to place it among his most interesting and successful means of usefulness. As respects benevolent objects abroad, there has been contributed by the "Ladies' Circle of Industry" for the general purposes of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the sum of one hundred dollars; for the Greek Mission, by general collection, forty-three dollars; for the Diocesan fund, by Easter collection, fourteen dollars; in all, one hundred and fifty-seven dollars.



## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD.

SAMUEL B. SHAW, LATE RECTOR.

In Christ Church, Guilford, have been baptized, during the last year, 6 infants and 1 adult. Making allowance for additions, deaths and removals, I find 60 persons now members of the communion. Eleven couples have been married, and 24 persons have been buried, of whom 6 were adults. It may not be improper to mention, that the unusual number of deaths reported was occasioned by the prevalence of the canker rash, and that many of the most interesting scholars in our Sunday Schools fell victims to this desolating scourge. Present number of families attending church, between 80 and 90. There are not far from 80 children in the Sunday Schools, and a respectable class for instruction in the Scriptures has always met during the Summer. Since the last Convention, the Church in the East village has been repainted, and is now in thorough repair.

The subscriber, having been called in the providence of God to another field of labor, and circumstances having induced him to accept the invitation, feels it his duty, after a connexion of almost nine years with the people of his late charge, to bear testimony to their uniform kindness and attention to himself and family; and to their diligent and regular use of the means of grace afforded them in the Church of Christ. May the Lord be with them, and bless them—may he direct them to another Shepherd, who will lead them to green pastures, even in the way of life everlasting.

Adjourned until half past 7 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Thursday, Sept. 1, 1831.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the Clergy of this State, and the Wardens of destitute Churches be requested to persevere in presenting to their people the subject of the Contingent Fund, and in soliciting annual contributions to it.

On motion by Hon. Dorastus Wooster, Resolved, That the next annual meeting of this Convention be held in St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury.



Rev. William Horton was appointed to preach before the next Convention, and Rev. Sylvester Nash, his substitute.

The Treasurer of the Contingent Fund presented the following report, which was read and accepted :

JOEL CLAP, TREASURER OF THE CONTINGENT FUND,		
To THE CONVENTION,		Dr.
To balance on hand, as per last report, after deducting		
interest, as there charged, . . . . .		\$81.13
To contribution from Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, . . . . .	6.50	
"            Zion Church, Manchester, . . . . .	2.00	
"            Trinity Church, Pawlet, . . . . .	.75	
"            St. Paul's Church, Wells, . . . . .	1.00	
		<hr/>
		\$91.38
	PER CONTRA,	Cr.
By amount paid for printing Journal of 1830, . . . . .	\$12.00	
Balance on hand this day, . . . . .	\$79.38	
		<hr/>
		JOEL CLAP, Treasurer.

September 1, 1831.

On motion by Hon. D. Wooster, Resolved, That the Prudential Committee be and they are hereby directed to prosecute the measures heretofore entrusted to their management in relation to the agency of the "Society's Land in this State."

The following gentlemen were appointed Delegates to the General Convention ; Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Sylvester Nash, of the Clergy. Hon. Dudley Chase, George Cleaveland, Alexander Fleming, Esqrs. and Mr. Cyrel Fuller, of the Laity.

On motion by Hon. D. Wooster, Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to publish six hundred copies of the Journal of this Convention at the expense of the Contingent Fund.

Adjourned for the purpose of attending Divine Service. Morning Prayer was read by Rev. Mr. Chase, Sermon by the

Right Rev. Bishop. Rev. William S. Perkins, Deacon, was ordained Priest. After which, the Holy Communion was administered by the Bishop, assisted by Rev. Anson B. Hard.

The Convention then met according to adjournment, and adjourned, without day.

A true Record.

Attest,

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

The following passages from the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Annual Convention of the Eastern Diocese held in St. Peter's Church, Salem, Mass., Sept. 28, 1831, are here appropriate. They are copied from the printed Journal of that Convention.

"First of all, are we bound to unite our hearts in thanks and praise to the Father of mercies, for many and great blessings vouchsafed during this our last constitutional year. We have been preserved from desolating judgments, and calamitous events; and generally it has been in our parishes, a season of health. Some few of our brethren, and much esteemed friends of the laity, it has pleased the Lord to remove by death; but, however deeply we must lament their loss, a smaller number we could not in reason have expected. Of our Clergy, through the Lord's goodness, none have died. Our loss from the Diocese has indeed been great and severe: several of our most useful parish ministers have removed to other parts; and at no former period have our Churches suffered more than they now do, from the want of faithful laborers: and yet with thankfulness may we add, that at no other period, in all human appearance, have the labors of those who continue with us been more generally blest. Our Churches have increased, not in numbers only, but we have good reason to believe, in piety and religious zeal; and never had we more reason to thank God and take courage."

"My own strength, through the Divine blessing, has been so continued, that my labours have not been diminished—in no year have they been more abundant. The year preceding this last, I visited all our Churches but six. In this which now expires, about the same number only have been visited; and these few, with two or three exceptions, such as did not particularly need my services.

Some have been visited twice, and I have done in that way as much as to visit all once. In the course of the year I preached about two hundred times, and about thirty times administered the Lord's Supper. A particular account of all my official labors, would be too great a tax upon your patience. A narrative of my last journey, chiefly in Vermont, has recently been published. It is very much my duty, and I trust sincerely my desire, while it shall please the Lord to prolong my life and give me strength to do what little shall be in my power, to promote the interest and increase of the Churches under our pastoral care. Those in Maine, and all on the west side of the Connecticut River have been visited once, and some few of them twice. In October, soon after the meeting of our last Convention, I made a journey in the western part of the Diocese, when the Rev. Mr. Horton was ordained Priest at Windsor, and appointed Pastor of the Church there; and it happily prospers under his ministry. I have thought it my duty generally to ordain Presbyters in the parishes where they are permanently to officiate; believing it for reasons which must be obvious to all, to be of essential benefit. For this important purpose I have been ready to go, at any time, and to any part of the Diocese. Of all men, a Bishop should be the least disposed to shrink from any labour, which will promote religion, and benefit the Church. No one is obliged to accept an office of such high responsibility: if we do accept it, we must, as our Lord commands, *be the servants of all.*"

"In New-Hampshire there has been some increase. The Churches in Hopkinton and Holderness are among the few which I have not visited. Those of Cornish, Claremont, Charlestown and Drewsville, I have visited twice; as also those of Windsor and Bellows Falls, in Vermont. Some unpleasant occurrences induced the Rev. Mr. Blackaller to resign the charge of the small parish in Somersworth, at the Great Falls."

"On the 19th of April last, the Rev. Mr. Doane was instituted Rector of Trinity Church in Boston. The Rev. Mr. Shaw has resigned the charge of the Church in Guilford in Vermont, and become the Pastor of St. Luke's Church in Lanesborough of this State."

"In Vermont, though they are suffering the most from the want of clergymen, there is the most cause of thankfulness to

God: especially for the great numbers recently awakened to righteousness, and the very evident increase of piety throughout the State. In my late journey through it, *I confirmed almost three hundred*, and the greater part of them, so far as man can judge, had been recently renewed in the spirit of their mind. With the exception of Shelburne and Guilford the Churches are all in a thriving state. In the latter place, they are of course much discouraged, in consequence of Mr. Shaw's leaving them, and it is very necessary that some one should supply the place."

"The Rev. Mr. Hard has some months since left the parishes of Sheldon and Fairfield, where his labours were very much blessed, and is dismissed from this Diocese. On the 14th of the last month, the Rev. Mr. Sabine was instituted into the Church in Bethel. The Rev. Richard Peck has returned from Connecticut to his former station, and is now laboring with success in Berkshire and Montgomery, and occasionally at Enosburgh. Fifty-three were confirmed in his parishes. In Highgate, in the north-west corner of the State, they are building a Church: the one building in Montgomery, it is expected will soon be finished. In Cambridge, where I preached as I journeyed through it, by suitable exertions, a parish might be gathered. Two pious, faithful laborers are now much wanted in that part of the vineyard."

"The Rev. Mr. Cleaveland who is in ill health, I left at Fairfield, where it is hoped he may be able to perform service."

"In Burlington, a very respectable number of people have lately formed an Episcopal parish, and the Rev. Dr. Chapman is, with much success, officiating with them. They are about commencing the building of a Church, and the prospects there are highly encouraging. On the 26th of August, the Rev. Silas A. Crane, Deacon, was, at Middlebury, ordained Priest and Rector of that Church, where he is soon to be instituted."

"In Poultney the parish has much increased, and the members of it are making very great and liberal exertions to build a Church, which is already raised and covered. In Pawlet and Wells it is thought parishes will soon be formed. On the 31st, the adjourned Convention of Vermont met at Arlington, when their new and beautiful Church was dedicated to God's holy worship; in which solemnity we were assisted by several of our breth-



ren from other States. It is called St. James' Church, and is built of stone, in excellent taste; and, though the parish is small, at the expense, it was said, of not less than ten thousand dollars; more than three thousand of which, I was informed, has been very freely contributed by one gentleman. The next day, the Rev. Mr. Perkins, their minister, was ordained Priest. In all the services, the congregations were very large."

"In Bennington are good prospects: a clergyman is much needed there, and much desired. Also in a place called Perkinsville, where for the first time I officiated, and where the Rev. Mr. Ballard has for some time officiated, some part of his time, we may hope there will soon be a parish. But what in my late tour through that State was most pleasing, and is most encouraging, was the ardent, religious feeling which almost every where prevailed, beyond what I have before so generally witnessed."

"In journeying through the Diocese, and in Vermont especially, my attention has been frequently called to the wonderful effects of Temperance Societies: the good already effected seems almost incredible; and daily on our knees should we thank God for the success He has given to their labors. It is a striking proof of what great good may be effected by united and persevering effort."

"In the past year the whole number of those confirmed, at 47 times, is 530. Candidates admitted are John A. Vaughn, Golden Dearth, William P. Page, James W. Cook, Daniel Leach, Erastus D'Wolf, William Friend, and Jonathan L. Woart. The testimonials of the last three named, were signed earlier, but were not given me till this last year. The testimonials of Charles Fay, George Burgess and Lucius M. Purdy are also signed, but have not yet been delivered to me. Justice to the candidates requires that in such cases the record of their being received should be of the same date as the testimonials, signed by the Standing Committee. Mr. Woart has been dismissed to Virginia, and there recently ordained. The whole number of Candidates, including these last named, is eighteen. The Rev. Messrs. Joseph H. Price, William Horton, George F. Haskins, Benjamin Hale, Silas A. Crane, and William S. Perkins, Deacons, have been ordained Priests; and two only, Matthias Munroe and John Batchelder, have been ordained Deacons. The latter of these had been a



minister in another denomination, and of course was not recorded as a candidate. The Rev. Messrs. Tappan, Withington, Fuller, Hard and Colton, have been at their own request, dismissed from this Diocese. The Rev. Mr. Humphry and the Rev. A. Potter have also left us."

"What has been done by several of our state Conventions, respecting the division of this Diocese, is no doubt known to you: it is a subject which should be considered with deep deliberation and earnest prayer. Nothing has occurred to change the views which formerly, and more than once, I have publicly expressed on this subject. It is a subject which must soon be considered, and acted on, and probably no time will be more favorable for its consideration than the present. Such, however, is my confidence in the wisdom of this Convention, that I shall cheerfully acquiesce in whatever shall be your decision. I am wholly devoted to our beloved Church, and what labors it shall please the Lord, in His merciful goodness, still to enable me to perform, are at your disposal."

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## 1832.

### LIST OF THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT, AND OF THE LAY DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED THE CONVENTION OF 1832.

#### CLERGY.

Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON,  
Rector of Zion Church, Manchester.

Rev. GEORGE T. CHAPMAN,  
Rector of St. Paul's Church, Burlington.

Rev. CARLTON CHASE,  
Rector of Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls.

Rev. JOEL CLAP,  
Rector of St. James' Church, Woodstock.

Rev. SILAS A. CRANE,  
Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury.

Rev. ANSON B. HARD,  
Rector of Grace Church, Sheldon.

Rev. JOHN A. HICKS,  
Rector of Trinity Church, Rutland.

Rev. WILLIAM HORTON,  
Rector of St. Paul's Church, Windsor.

Rev. LOUIS McDONALD,  
Rector of Trinity Church, Shelburne.

Rev. SYLVESTER NASH,  
Rector of Union Church, St. Albans.

Rev. RICHARD PECK,  
Rector of Calvary Church, Berkshire, and Union Church,  
Montgomery.

Rev. WILLIAM S. PERKINS,  
Rector of St. James' Church, Arlington.

Rev. JAMES SABINE,  
Rector of Christ Church, Bethel.

LAY DELEGATES.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, ARLINGTON :  
SYLVESTER DEMING,                      SIMEON COLE,  
NOBLE HARD,                              CYRUS B. HILLS,  
    JOHN B. LATHROP,

ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER :  
TRUMAN PURDY,                      HIRAM FRENCH,  
    JESSE HARD.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS :  
CALIF MONROE.

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET :  
DANIEL FITCH,                      JAMES COOK,

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY :  
TIMOTHY MARSHALL,                      AARON LEWIS.

## TRINITY CHURCH, RUTLAND:

PORTER HOWE,                      LUCIUS M. PURDY.

## ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY:

JOEL DOOLITTLE,                      GEORGE CLEAVELAND,  
   CALVIN C. WALLER.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, VERGENNES:

FRANCIS BRADBURY.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BURLINGTON:

TIMOTHY FOLLETT,                      ANDREW THOMPSON,  
   JUSTUS BURDICK.

## TRINITY CHURCH, MILTON:

SAMUEL R. CRANE,                      WARREN HOXIE.

## UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON,                      BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

## GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON:

ISAAC J. POTTER.

## TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD:

ALFRED WHEELER,                      LYMAN HAWLEY,  
   JEPHTHA BRADLEY.

## CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE:

DAVID COBURN.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

JOHN T. SABINE.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR:

JESSE LULL,                      SIMEON IDE.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PERKINSVILLE:

THOMAS PRENTISS.

## IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS:

JOHN ATKINSON,                      ARTEMAS ROBBINS,  
   M. S. BUCKLAND.

## CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD:

DANA HYDE,                      ASABEL DICKENSON.

## JOURNAL OF 1832.

Wednesday, May 30, 1832.

This being the day appointed by the Constitution, for the annual meeting of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont, a number of the Clergy, and Lay Delegates from several Parishes, assembled in St. Stephen's Church, Middlebury, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention was organized by the appointment of Rev. Abraham Bronson, President, pro tem. and Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary, pro tem.

Present :

Rev. ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Zion Church, *Manchester*.

Rev. CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.

Rev. JOEL CLAP, Rector of St. James' Church, *Woodstock*.

Rev. SILAS A. CRANE, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, *Middlebury*.

Rev. ANSON B. HARD, Rector of Grace Church, *Sheldon*.

Rev. JOHN A. HICKS, Rector of Trinity Church, *Rutland*.

Rev. WILLIAM HORTON, Rector of St. Paul's Church, *Windsor*.

Rev. LOUIS McDONALD, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburne*.

Rev. SYLVESTER NASH, Rector of Union Church, *St. Albans*.

Rev. RICHARD PECK, Rector of Calvary Church, *Berkshire*,  
and Union Church, *Montgomery*.

Rev. WILLIAM S. PERKINS, Rector of St. James' Church, *Arlington*.

Rev. JAMES SABINE, Rector of Christ Church, *Bethel*.

The following gentlemen appeared, presented their Credentials, and took their seats as Lay Delegates.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, ARLINGTON:

SYLVESTER DEMING, SIMEON COLE,  
NOBLE HARD, CYRUS B. HILLS,

JOHN B. LATHROP.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS:

CALIF MONROE.

TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET:

DANIEL FITCH, JAMES COOK.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY:

TIMOTHY MARSHALL, AARON LEWIS.

TRINITY CHURCH, RUTLAND:

PORTER HOWE, LUCIUS M. PURDY.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY:

GEORGE CLEAVELAND, CALVIN C. WALLER.

UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS:

JOHN RICHARDSON, BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

GRACE CHURCH, SHELDON:

ISAAC J. POTTER.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD:

ALFRED WHEELER, LYMAN HAWLEY,  
JEPHTHA BRADLEY.

CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE:

DAVID COBOURN.

CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL:

JOHN T. SABINE.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR:

JESSE LULL, SIMEON IDE.

IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS:

JOHN ATKINSON.

CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD:

DANA HYDE.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PERKINSVILLE:

THOMAS PRENTISS.



On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the President be, and he hereby is, requested to invite Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and candidates for Holy Orders in the same, who may be in town during the session of this Convention, to honorary seats in the same.

Rev. Abraham Bronson was chosen President, and Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

The following gentlemen were elected the Standing Committee: Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Silas A. Crane, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Sylvester Nash.

The business of the Convention was suspended for the purpose of attending Divine Service.

Morning Prayers were read by Rev. James Sabine; the Sermon preached by Rev. William Horton.

The Holy Communion was administered by the Rev. President, assisted by Rev. Anson B. Hard; after which the business of the Convention was resumed.

Rev. George T. Chapman, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Burlington, appeared and took his seat.

The following Lay Delegates appeared, presented their Credentials, and took their seats: Truman Purdy, Hiram French, and Jesse Hard, from Zion Church, Manchester. Artemas Robbins, from Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls.

Convention adjourned until 3 o'clock, this afternoon.

Wednesday, 3 o'clock, p. m.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

The following Lay Delegates appeared, presented their Credentials, and took their seats: Francis Bradbury, from St. Paul's Church, Vergennes; M. S. Buckland, from Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls; Ashbel Dickinson, from Christ Church, Guilford.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the Convention do now proceed to the consideration of the separation of this State from the Eastern Diocese:

Whereupon, the Secretary having informed the Convention that, in compliance with the Resolution of the last Convention, upon this subject, he had applied in behalf of the Churches in this State, to the Diocesan and the several State Conventions within the Eastern Diocese for permission to withdraw from the said Eastern Diocese, presented the following documents :

AN EXTRACT FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE LAST CONVENTION  
OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE.

The report of the Committee on the division of the Eastern Diocese was made, in the words following, and unanimously adopted :

“ The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Bishop’s address as relates to the division of the Eastern Diocese, together with the communication from Vermont, having taken the important subject intrusted to them, into the most serious deliberation, with diligent inquiry as to the proceedings relative to the same subject, in the several States composing the Eastern Diocese, respectfully report the following Preamble and Resolution.

Whereas, it appears to this Convention, that the Church in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is desirous to be erected into a diocese by itself, retaining Bishop Griswold as its Diocesan ; and Whereas, the Church in the State of Vermont has communicated to this Convention its desire to apply to the several States, composing the Eastern Diocese, for permission to withdraw according to the provision of the 9th Article of the Constitution : therefore,

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Convention, the desire of Massachusetts is reasonable, and ought, as soon as circumstances allow, to be granted : and this Convention, while it approves the course intended by Vermont, expressly recommends to the several States composing the Eastern Diocese, with the exception of Massachusetts, to withdraw, as soon as may be convenient, from this Convention, and to erect themselves into distinct Dioceses.”

CAMBRIDGE, NOV. 2, 1831.

REV. AND DEAR SIR ;—At a Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Massachusetts, holden this day at

Trinity Church, Boston, the following resolution was passed unanimously, and is now communicated to you, in obedience to the direction of said Convention :

“The Convention having been certified of the anxious desire of the State of Vermont, to withdraw from the Eastern Diocese, and to erect itself into a separate Diocese as soon as may be : Therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention fully concur therein, provided the assent of the Rt. Rev. Bishop of the Eastern Diocese be had thereto : and this Convention, in the adoption of the above resolution, the effect of which is to promote the separation of a compact, which has existed for many years, and by the Divine blessing been productive of much comfort and advantage, commends the Church in Vermont, in case such separation should be effected, to the blessing of God, sincerely desiring for it all spiritual prosperity and peace.”

T. W. COIT, Secretary of Con. of Mass.

To REV. JOEL CLAP, Secretary of Con. of Vermont.

A Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Maine, was holden in St. Paul's Church, Portland, Tuesday, February 7, 1832, for the consideration of the request of the State of Vermont, as officially communicated by the Rev. Joel Clap, for permission to withdraw from the Eastern Diocese :

There were present, Rev. Messrs. Ten Broeck, Olney, and Meuncher, of the Clergy.

Messrs. J. Merrill and M. P. Sawyer, of St. Paul's Church, Portland, and Mr. John Batchelder of Trinity Church, Saco.

Rev. Petrus S. Ten Broeck was elected President.

Prayers were offered up by Rev. Mr. Meuncher, of Saco. Voted that the Rev. Benj. Hale be admitted to the sittings of this Convention.

After consideration of the request communicated by the Secretary of Vermont, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas the present exigencies of the Church in the State of Vermont seem to render it expedient that said Church should constitute a separate Diocese, with the view to the election of a Bishop;

And whereas, the Convention of the Eastern Diocese has already consented to the measure, and our venerable Diocesan has approved the same: Therefore,

Resolved, That the request of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, officially communicated to this Convention, by the Rev. Joel Clap, to withdraw from the Eastern Diocese, be cordially complied with.

Resolved, also, That in giving our assent to the separation of the Church in Vermont from the Eastern Diocese, we heartily wish it God speed in its new course.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, to the Secretary of the Convention of the Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont.

Attest,

SAMUEL CUTLER, Sec'y Maine Con.

WARREN, March 12, 1832.

REV. MR. CLAP,—DEAR SIR:—At a Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Rhode Island, held in St. Paul's Church, North Providence, on the 8th inst. the following resolutions were adopted;—

That this Convention having been officially informed that the Churches in Vermont are desirous of withdrawing from the Eastern Diocese, and the Constitution of said Diocese requiring our consent, it is therefore,

Resolved, That we consent to their withdrawal.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention communicate the same to the Secretary of the Convention of the Church of Vermont.

Yours, respectfully,

GEO. W. HATHAWAY.

At a Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Churches of the State of New-Hampshire, holden at St. John's Church, in Portsmouth, on Saturday, the 21st day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon, to act on the following business to wit : —

1. To choose a President to govern the said Convention,
2. To take into consideration the application of the Episcopal Churches in Vermont to the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Churches of New-Hampshire, for permission to withdraw their connexion from the Eastern Diocese, and for the State of Vermont to be erected into a separate Diocese,

On motion of Mr. Cutts, Voted, That, whereas, the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Churches in the State of Vermont, have applied to the Conventions of the several States constituting the Eastern Diocese, for permission to withdraw their connexion from the said Diocese, with a view that the State of Vermont may be erected into a separate Diocese, this Convention do now consent that the several Protestant Episcopal Churches in the State of Vermont may, at their pleasure, for the purpose aforesaid, withdraw their connexion from the Eastern Diocese.

CHARLES BURROUGHS, President.

LORY ODEL, Secretary, pro tem.

#### TO THE CONVENTION OF THE PROTESTANT

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT :

Whereas, by mutual consent and permission of the Convention of the Eastern Diocese, and of the Conventions of the several States which constitute or compose the said Eastern Diocese, it has, on my recommendation, and with my approval, been permitted and agreed, that the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, should be separated from the said Eastern Diocese, and be independent under the name and title of the Diocese of Vermont :

Therefore, I hereby authorize and permit the Convention of the said Diocese of Vermont, at their next, or any other regular meeting, to proceed to the choice of a Bishop for the said Diocese



of Vermont, and to transact all other business appertaining to an entire Diocese, and as being independent of the Eastern Diocese.

ALEX. V. GRISWOLD,

Bishop of the Eastern Diocese.

Salem, May 7, 1832.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, at an adjourned session of the last annual Convention, holden at Arlington, on the last Wednesday of August, 1831, measures were taken for separating this State from the Eastern Diocese, and for erecting it into an independent Diocese — and

Whereas, the said measures and the projected separation have received the approbation of the Convention of the Eastern Diocese—of the Bishop of the same—and of the Conventions of the several States, constituting that Diocese ; Therefore,

Resolved, That the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont, is hereby declared to be, and is an independent and distinct Episcopal jurisdiction, under the name and style of the “ Diocese of Vermont,” subject only to the law of our Lord and Saviour, and under him, to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in these United States.

The proceedings relative to the organization of the following Parishes having been approved by this Convention, they were admitted into connexion with the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Vermont :

St. Paul's Church, Burlington ; Trinity Church, Milton ; Union Church, Springfield.

The following gentlemen appeared, presented their Credentials, and took their seats as Lay Delegates : Andrew Thompson and Justus Burdick, from St. Paul's Church, Burlington ; Samuel R. Crane, Warren Hoxie, from Trinity Church, Milton.

The following Report of the Prudential Committee, was read and accepted :

TO THE CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT,  
ASSEMBLED AT MIDDLEBURY, MAY 30, 1832 :

The Prudential Committee, in offering their Annual Report, have the pleasure to state,

That the encouraging anticipations announced in their last Report respecting the Prudential interests of the Diocese, appear to be in a course of realization as rapid as could with reason be expected. The application to the Venerable Society, for a new Letter of Attorney, and for the appointment of additional Agents, was favorably received. As soon as the usual forms of business could be complied with, the proper document—not differing in any cardinal point from the former, was delivered to our Solicitor in London, from whom it was received here about the first of January last. The Agents appear to have felt the importance of proceeding to business with all possible dispatch. A meeting was held at Middlebury during the first week in February, where and when the agency was completely organized under the name and style of “The Vermont Agency of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.” Rules of Business were adopted for adjusting and facilitating the operations of the Agency; sundry important settlements were effected; and much appears to have been done towards bringing the affairs of the Agency, hitherto confused, into seemly shape and order.

There still exist claims on the Treasury to a considerable amount—say three thousand dollars, which the agents intend to discharge gradually while they annually distribute a small allowance to the Churches. At the February meeting an allowance of fifty dollars was made to each Church, or association of Churches, having a Clergyman.

To what further expense the agency may be driven in asserting and maintaining the rights of the Church, the Committee can not with confidence predict; though they consider the prospect, in that particular, rather favorable than otherwise. Some further expense there certainly must be—as the Convention will judge from the fact that twelve suits have been commenced at the late term of the Circuit Court. There is every reason to believe that

many of these will be compromised before going to trial. It is expected that an additional number of suits will be undertaken before the October Term.

It appears to the Committee, that the Agency as now constituted, may be relied on for acting with probity, wisdom and efficiency; and with due attention to that cardinal virtue in the management of all temporal trusts having a spiritual object—economy. It consists of the following named persons. Alexander Viets Griswold, Abraham Bronson, Daniel Chipman, Jonathan Hatch Hubbard, Jonathan Hagar, Dorastus Wooster, and Carlton Chase.

With respect to the collection of the rents by the sub-agents, a subject on which the Convention has heretofore manifested some solicitude, the Committee see, at present, little cause of complaint. There doubtless are some cases of needless and injurious delay in the enforcement of collections. To this, the General Agency will give attention in due time,—being determined that men who undertake to do their business, shall do it promptly as well as honestly.

It may be of use to such as have, or shall have business with the Agency, to know that the Agents have resolved to hold a meeting during the first week in the month of February, annually.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CARLTON CHASE, for the Committee.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare and report to this Convention, an Address to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold.

Whereupon the following gentlemen were appointed on said Committee : Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Sylvester Nash, Hon. Joel Doolittle.

On motion by Hon. Joel Doolittle, the following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, the State of Vermont has become, and is a separate Diocese, in conformity to the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and as such, entitled to separate

Episcopal Jurisdiction: And the Episcopate of said Diocese being now vacant, and in the opinion of this Convention, it is expedient for the well ordering of the Church in said Diocese, that said vacancy be filled at as early a period as may be—Therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention do, at its present session, proceed to the election of a suitable person to the Episcopate of said Diocese, to fill said vacancy, in the manner pointed out by the Canons of this Church.

Resolved, That the Convention proceed to make the election, contemplated in the above resolution, on Thursday, the 31st day of instant May, at 8 o'clock, A. M.

Convention adjourned until 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Thursday, May 31, 8 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

Hon. Timothy Follett, a Lay Delegate from St. Paul's Church, Burlington, appeared, and, his Credentials having been previously presented, took his seat.

On motion by Mr. Noble Hard, Resolved, That the order of the day be dispensed with, for the purpose of receiving the Parochial Reports.

The following Parochial Reports were presented and read :

#### ST. JAMES' CHURCH, ARLINGTON.

W. S. PERKINS, RECTOR.

Communicants (additions 3,) 112; Baptism, 1 adult; Deaths, 4. Since the last Convention, nothing specially interesting has occurred among us. The Church edifice has been completed and arrangements have been made to obtain a superior organ. The Missionary Association have constituted their Rector a life member of the General Missionary Society.

#### ZION CHURCH, MANCHESTER.

ABRAHAM BRONSON, RECTOR.

Baptisms, 15; Marriages, 2; Funerals, 10; Communicants, 62. The work of grace has continued to make progress in this

Church. The Parish is small, but a large majority of the people are decidedly and actively pious. Since the Convention of last August, two communicants have been removed by death, three have been transferred to other churches, eleven have joined in communion. Nearly twenty, it is believed, have been truly converted, who have not yet come to that holy ordinance. The Parish have contributed thirty dollars to constitute the Rector a life member of the General Missionary Society.

### TRINITY CHURCH, PAWLET.

DANIEL FITCH, WARDEN.

Removals, 1; Additions, 4; Communicants, 29.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WELLS.

DANIEL LEWIS, JOHN C HOPSON, WARDENS.

Communicants, 22. We have been destitute of preaching since the Rev. Mr. Bennet left Granville, the forepart of the winter last past; yet we are in connexion with the Church at Granville.

### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, POULTNEY.

MOORE BINGHAM, RECTOR.

\* Communicants (added 2, died 2), 40; Baptisms (adults 1, infants and children 5), 6; Sunday Scholars, about 20.

The Bible, Prayer Book, Tract, Missionary, and Female Charitable Associations, heretofore reported as organized, continue their operations; and though all they have accomplished may be little, yet they judge that that little should not be left unnoticed.

On the 27th May, 1831, the corner stone of an edifice for the accomodation of this Parish, was laid with public and religious solemnities; and by the Lord's blessing, the same has been completed, and the congregation permitted to occupy it for the first time, on Sunday last, being May 27th, 1832. The house is ready for consecration; and the Parish are inquiring when the Bishop's presence will afford them an opportunity of surrendering it to the honor of God's name and worship.

The style of the house is Gothick, the material wood; its situation and appearance, truly beautiful; its internal arrangements



convenient; and it will seat about four hundred people. Its erection has cost the few attached members of the Parish great effort and self-denial; nor should it be concealed, that the Parish still lies under the painful and dangerous embarrassment of somewhat more than the cost of the lot of land on which the house is erected. Should assistance now be obtained to the amount of one hundred or two hundred dollars the Parish would doubtless make a prompt and successful effort for the speedy disposition of the remainder of its debt, and might then be represented as placed on a footing of permanence and prosperity.

By the kind permission of the two congregations with which he is engaged, the Rector has, since and soon after the last meeting of this Convention, spent two Sundays with the parish in Rutland, and visited them a few times on other days. Of his doings there he thought it proper to transmit the more specific record to the present Rector of that parish.

#### TRINITY CHURCH, RUTLAND.

REV. JOHN A. HICKS.

Rev. J. A. Hicks reports that he visited Rutland and officiated there for the first time, on the 2d Sunday of January. Having received an invitation from the Vestry of Trinity Church to become their Pastor, he has since continued to preach in the East Village, twice on Sunday, and in the West Parish, weekly, on Thursday evening. Besides these services, he has preached occasionally at the Middle Village, and in other places of the surrounding country. He has lately established a weekly lecture, Bible class and Sunday School, and also a Bible class at the Middle Village. The Bible classes together contain about thirty members, and the Sunday School twenty-five scholars. and (including their pastor) four teachers. The number of Communicants is about seventeen.

#### ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MIDDLEBURY.

S. A. CRANE, RECTOR.

Baptisms (infants 8, adults 4) — 12; Communicants (added 8, died and removed 3), present number 49; Marriages 6; Burials 6;

Sunday School, 40. Bible class, number varying. Easter collection, eight dollars and nineteen cents. Since the report in August last, there have been some additions to the Sunday School Library; and although attendance on the stated and occasional services of the Church is by no means so *general, constant and punctual*, as the importance of the subject demands, yet, painful and unpromising as this circumstance is, the Rector still indulges the hope that on the whole, the condition of this Church is improving, and that the strong bearings of public worship upon the best interests of man, both in this life and the life to come, are beginning to be better understood and better attended to.

### TRINITY CHURCH, SHELburn.

LOUIS MC DONALD, RECTOR.

Baptisms (infants) — 16; Marriages, 6; Funerals, 5; Communicants (added 4, suspended 1) — 74; Sunday School, 35; Bible class, 20. I have attended one funeral in Charlotte, and one in Hinesburgh.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BURLINGTON.

G. T. CHAPMAN, RECTOR.

In the Spring of 1831, I received an application from the then recently organized Episcopal Society at Burlington, requesting my services, for an indefinite time. The result was my arrival so as to officiate with them on the second Sunday of June, 1831. Soon after I was elected Rector of the Parish, and have regularly officiated since, three times in each Sabbath, to full congregations. Before these proceedings, there had been no stated services of our Church, at Burlington, and the number of families was estimated at about twenty. By the Divine blessing upon my ministry, the number of families is now near, or quite, eighty. The first time the communion was administered, there were seventeen to receive, several of whom had not previously joined the Church; the present number is forty-eight. A Sunday School has been established and one hundred and three scholars have been admitted. The requisite number of teachers were also easily obtained, with

three hundred and seventy-seven books of instruction, and one hundred and thirty-two suitable works for the Library. The number of baptisms has been 48—34 children and 14 adults. The Marriages have been 4, the Funerals 5; and shortly after my arrival, confirmation was held by the Rt. Rev. Bishop of the Diocese, and fourteen persons were confirmed. A much larger number are now ready to receive that holy rite, when the opportunity shall occur. The building of a Church edifice was commenced in September last, and is under contract to be completed by the first of next September.

This edifice is of unhewn stone, in the Gothic style, with tower, buttresses, &c. and promises to be eminently beautiful, reflecting great credit upon the zeal and liberality of this new and rising parish. The dimensions are in length, including recess and tower, 86 feet; in breadth, 48; height of the cornice, 29 feet; of the tower, about 75 feet. The inside of the church is now finishing.

*Recapitulation.*—Families, 80; Baptisms, 48, of whom 14 adults; Confirmed, 14; Communicants, 48; Marriages, 4; Funerals, 5; Sunday Scholars admitted, 103.

May 30, 1832.

N. B. I also succeeded during the last winter, in organizing a new Society, by the name of Trinity Church, at the town of Milton, fourteen miles north of Burlington. They will be represented in the present Convention. It is believed that there are at least thirty of the most respectable families, in the town, who will liberally aid in endeavoring to establish this church, on a permanent foundation. When I have been there, which has been principally in the week time, they have manifested a most laudable spirit, and notwithstanding the visits were made, in most instances, when the weather was extremely unfavorable, the attendance has been highly gratifying. I should mention that four of the preceding baptisms were at this town, and one at Shelburn, as also one Funeral at the latter place, the Rector of that Church being absent. The exact number of communicants, at Trinity Church, Milton, I do not know, and therefore, have not included them in the preceding number. They are, however, more than ten, and probably more than twenty. G. T. C.

## UNION CHURCH, ST. ALBANS.

S. NASH, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 6, children 10) — 16; Marriages, 3; Communicants, 58. Nineteen have been added, and nine have removed, since the last Convention.

With heartfelt gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, the Rector would acknowledge His goodness in the revived attention to the subject of salvation, which was manifest in this parish, while himself was confined upon a sick-bed.

There does not now appear to be any extraordinary attention, but there is good reason to believe that a goodly number will be witnesses, in eternity, to the benefit of that which was experienced in August and September last. May the Lord add to their number.

TRINITY CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, AND GRACE  
CHURCH, SHELDON.

A. B. HARD, MINISTER OF SHELDON.

During the past year these parishes have been without a clergyman. Occasional services have been held by ministers of other parishes, and lay reading has for the most part been kept up with commendable zeal, which has had a happy effect in promoting their spiritual health and prosperity.

Fairfield — Baptisms, 2; Additions, 6; Communicants, 91. Sheldon — Baptisms, 10; Additions, 16; Communicants, 91. Since the first organization of the church, in these parishes, they have united in supporting a clergyman, who has alternately preached in each church, every other sabbath. During the past year, an amicable dissolution of this connection has taken place.

The parish in Sheldon have joined with a few Episcopalians in Highgate, in supporting the ministry, and invited the Rev. A. B. Hard to become their minister. Mr. H. accepted the invitation, and took charge of the parishes in April last. In Highgate a church will be organized in a few weeks. A few Episcopalians in Fairfax have united with Fairfield in supporting the ministry. They have sent invitations to clergymen with the promise of comfortable support, but have not as yet obtained one. "The field is now white unto the harvest,"—the Lord send them a pious, devoted, self-denying laborer.

## CALVARY CHURCH, BERKSHIRE.

RICHARD PECK, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 16, infants 14) — 30; Sunday Scholars, 40; Communicants (added 23, removed and withdrawn 4), 114.

## UNION CHURCH, MONTGOMERY.

RICHARD PECK, RECTOR.

Baptisms 2; Deaths, 2; Marriage, 1; Sunday Scholars, 60; Communicants (added 3, error in the last report 3, removed and died 8) — 72.

## CHRIST CHURCH, BETHEL.

JAMES SABINE, RECTOR.

Things generally, are much the same, as last year. Number of Communicants (removed to other places 2, by death 2) — 90; Baptisms (adults 3, infants 3) — 6; Sunday School, 26; Bible Class, 23; Collected for Contingent Fund, \$3.83.

## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WOODSTOCK.

JOEL CLAP, RECTOR.

Baptisms (adults 2, children 9) — 11; Marriages, 6; Removals, 7; Communicants, 25. Nothing of unusual interest has occurred in relation to the condition of this parish during the past year.

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, WINDSOR.

WILLIAM HORTON, RECTOR.

Communicants, 58; Baptisms, 2; Sunday Scholars, 60.

## IMMANUEL CHURCH, BELLOWS FALLS.

C. CHASE, RECTOR.

Baptisms, (adults 9, children 12) — 21; Confirmations, 6; Marriage, 1; Deaths, 4; Communicants, 60; Sunday School Library, about three hundred volumes. Parish Library, one hundred and eighty-six volumes.

Through divine favor the Rector is enabled to report this Church as in a condition highly prosperous. A large addition



has been made to the Communion, and it may be truly said, that the truths, duties and hopes of religion are regarded with great and increasing interest. By the desire of numbers who could not be accommodated within the limited circle of a Bible class, the Rector has converted his Bible class exercise into a weekly expository lecture. This has hitherto been attended in a manner greatly to his encouragement. The Society of Ladies have the sum of fifty dollars in hand to be forwarded by the first opportunity to the Treasurer of our Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society ; it being their first payment on Mr. Greenleaf's plan.

On motion, Resolved, That this Convention do now proceed to the election of a Bishop for the Diocese of Vermont.

After singing a portion of the 122nd Psalm, some minutes were spent in secret prayer. The President then conducted the public devotions of the Convention in the use of some appropriate collects.

The clergy then retired, for the purpose of making a nomination, as required by the 5th Article of the Constitution. And on their return, the President informed the Convention that the Clergy had proceeded to vote by ballot for some suitable person to be nominated, for Bishop of the Diocese, and that the Rev. John H. Hopkins received a majority of the ballots of all the Clergy entitled to vote : And in behalf of the Clergy, nominated the said John H. Hopkins for Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont.

The Clergy again retired, in order to give the Laity an opportunity to act upon the aforesaid nomination : on their return, the Laity announced by their Chairman, Hon. Joel Doolittle, the approval on their part, of the aforesaid nomination of the Rev. John H. Hopkins, as Bishop of Vermont, by a majority of all the Lay Delegates entitled to seats in this Convention.

The Convention adjourned until two o'clock, this afternoon.

Thursday, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

On motion, Ordered, that the following, which is a correct statement of the votes on the election of a Bishop which took place this morning, be entered on the Journals of this Convention:

## BY THE CLERGY.

For Rev. John H. Hopkins, . . . . .	7
For Rev. John S. Stone, . . . . .	6

## BY THE LAITY.

Approving, . . . . .	31
Not approving, . . . . .	9

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, unanimously, That the Rev. John H. Hopkins be, and he is hereby declared duly elected Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Vermont.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the President of this Convention be, and he hereby is directed, under his own signature and the counter signature of the Secretary, to inform the Bishop elect of his election.

The following gentlemen were appointed Delegates to the General Convention: Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. George T. Chapman, and Rev. Sylvester Nash.—Messrs. George Cleaveland, Simeon Ide, Truman Purdy, and Samuel R. Crane.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That in case it should be inconvenient for any or either of the aforesaid delegates to attend the General Convention, they be severally authorized to appoint a substitute, with the consent of any two members of the Standing Committee.

The Committee appointed to prepare an address to the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold, reported the following address, which was unanimously adopted:

THE CONVENTION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE STATE OF VERMONT,—

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD,  
BISHOP OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE:

REVEREND FATHER IN GOD,—In assuming the station of a distinct and independent Diocese, we are reminded at every step of our measures, of the relation which our Church during the period

of twenty years, has sustained towards you. Amidst the interest attending this great and affecting crisis in our ecclesiastical concerns, our "hearts are bowed as the heart of one man" at the thought of taking leave of him, whose hands, after the manner of the Holy Apostles, have been laid on us and our children, blessing, confirming, and ordaining in God's name.

When we look back to the period of your first visitations, and consider that we were then "the fewest of all people," we feel thankfully sensible of that providence which set you over us in the Lord, and which enabled you by example, and counsel, and doctrine, to contribute so much towards the revival of his work among us. And now, in the very fact of our separation, we make it manifest, that the good hand of our God has hitherto rested on us, multiplying and strengthening us under your ministry; and at length, granting us such possessions and prospects, both spiritual and temporal, as seem to make it plain that we ought to ask of the Great Head of the Church, the entire services of a Bishop.

This crisis has indeed been delayed through an extreme unwillingness to deprive ourselves of the ministrations of a Bishop whom we so truly revere and love. And we come to our present measures only under the conviction, that our Churches need a degree of attention which no man can possibly render, whose field of duty and weight of burdens are as great as yours.

It may be truly said that the Lord has so multiplied the seed sown under your ministry, that the fruits have become more than you can gather. In compliance therefore with a suggestion often repeated by yourself, we are at length constrained to invite 'another to enter into your labors'—in the full belief 'that both he that hath sowed, and he that shall reap, will rejoice together.' "

And now, Right Reverend Father, while with grateful and affectionate hearts we take leave of you, "sorrowing most of all that we shall see your face no more," suffer us as the children of your prayers and labors of love, to beg an interest in your remembrance and in your daily supplications before the Throne of Grace. And be assured that towards you we shall never cease to cherish a filial regard; nor will it cease to be our hearts' desire that the

Lord will have you in His holy and special keeping—sealing your Office and Ministry with abundant effusions of His Holy Spirit, and thus multiplying your “crowns of rejoicing in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

On motion, Resolved, that the members of this Convention be, and they hereby are requested severally to sign the aforesaid address; and that the Secretary be directed to forward it to Bishop Griswold.

The Address was then signed by all the Clerical and Lay members of the Convention who were present.

The Canonical Testimonial in favor of the Consecration of the Bishop elect was then read and signed by all the Clergy and all the Laity of the Convention who were present. (See Appendix.)

On motion by Rev. Mr. Chase, Resolved, That the Delegation to the General Convention be authorized to take such measures as may be necessary to obtain the Consecration of the Bishop elect.

On motion, Resolved, That the next annual meeting of this Convention be held at Rutland.

The Rev. George T. Chapman was appointed to preach before the next Convention, and the Rev. Anson B. Hard was appointed his substitute.

The following Report of the Standing Committee was presented and read :

At a regular meeting of the Standing Committee, holden at Arlington, on the 31st day of August, 1831, at which were present Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Joel Clap, and Rev. Silas A. Crane,

The Rev. Abraham Bronson was appointed President, and Rev. Joel Clap, Secretary.

The requisite Testimonials in favour of the Consecration of the Rev. Levi Silliman Ives, Bishop elect of the Diocese of North Carolina, and Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, Bishop elect of the Diocese of Kentucky, were duly executed.

The Canonical Testimonial in favour of Lucius M. Purdy, recommending him to be received as a candidate for Holy Orders, was executed.

At a meeting of the Committee duly called, holden at Woodstock on the 2d day of November, 1831, present, Rev. Abraham Bronson, Rev. Joel Clap, Rev. Carlton Chase, Rev. Sylvester Nash,

The Secretary of the Convention was directed to give notice to the Clergy and the several parishes in the State, that an election of a Bishop for the Diocese of Vermont will take place at the next annual meeting of the Convention in said State. And also to request the Standing Committees of the several States composing the Eastern Diocese, to call special Conventions in order to lay before them the application of this State to withdraw from the Eastern Diocese.

The requisite Testimonial recommending John T. Sabine to be received as a candidate for Holy Orders was duly executed.

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

May 29, 1832.

The Treasurer of the Contingent Fund presented the following report, which was read and accepted.

JOEL CLAP, TREASURER OF THE CONTINGENT FUND,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE CONVENTION,		DR.
To balance on hand, as per last Report, . . . . .		\$79.38
To contribution taken up in Convention, . . . . .		8.69
To contribution from Union Church, St. Albans, . . . . .		7.43
“ “ Zion Church, Manchester, . . . . .		3.00
“ “ Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, . . . . .		5.00
“ “ St. Paul's Church, Windsor, . . . . .		5.00
“ “ Christ Church, Bethel, . . . . .		3.83
“ “ St. Paul's Church, Wells, . . . . .		1.00
		<hr/>
		\$113.33

PER CONTRA,		CR.
By cash paid for printing Journals of 1831, . . . . .	\$12.00	
By Trunk for Records, &c. . . . .	3.50	
		<hr/>
		\$15.50

Balance on hand this day, . . . . . \$ 97.83

May 31, 1832.

JOEL CLAP, Treasurer.



On motion by Rev. Mr. Nash, Resolved, That those parishes which have not taken up a collection for the Contingent Fund, be requested to take up a collection for that Fund, on or before the last Sunday in June next, and forward the same to the Treasurer.

On motion, ordered, That the Secretary publish six hundred copies of the Journal of this Convention, at the expense of the Contingent Fund.

On motion by Rev. Mr. Nash, Voted, That the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund be directed to pay to each of the Delegates from this Convention, who may attend the next General Convention, Ten Dollars.

On motion, Ordered, That the following proposed alteration of the Constitution be entered upon the Journal.

Resolved, That the Constitution of this Diocese be so altered, that the annual Convention shall meet on the third Wednesday in September, annually.

The Prudential Committee for the year ensuing, was appointed as follows :—Andrew Thompson, John Atkinson, John A. Pratt, and Hon. Joel Doolittle.

Ordered, That the Treasurer of the Contingent Fund be directed to forward to the Secretary of the General Convention the assessment for this Diocese.

On motion, Resolved, That a Committee of six be appointed to make arrangements for the location and salary of the Bishop elect.

The following gentlemen were appointed on said Committee : Rev. George T. Chapman, Andrew Thompson, Esq., Rev. Carlton Chase, Hon. Joel Doolittle, Mr. Simeon Ide, and Rev. John A. Hicks.

Rev. Silas A. Crane was appointed Assistant Secretary. Convention adjourned until 5 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Friday, June 1, 5 o'clock, A. M.

Convention met according to adjournment ; and after a selection of collects read by the Rev. President, adjourned without day.

A true Record.

JOEL CLAP, Secretary.

## APPENDIX.

We, whose names are under written, fully sensible how important it is that the sacred office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony, on this solemn occasion, without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God testify, that the Rev. John H. Hopkins is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to evil report, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life; and that we do not know or believe there is any impediment, on account of which, he ought not to be consecrated to that Holy office. We do moreover jointly and severally declare, that we do in our consciences believe him to be of such sufficiency in good learning, such soundness in faith, and of such virtuous and pure manners, and godly conversation, that he is apt and meet to exercise the office of a Bishop, to the honor of God and the edifying of His Church; and to be an wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

Done in Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Vermont, at Middlebury, this thirty-first day in May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

## CLERGY.

- ABRAHAM BRONSON, Rector of Zion Church, *Manchester*.  
JOEL CLAP, Rector of St. James' Church, *Woodstock*.  
CARLTON CHASE, Rector of Immanuel Church, *Bellows Falls*.  
G. T. CHAPMAN, Rector of St. Paul's Church, *Burlington*.  
SYLVESTER NASH, Rector of Union Church, *St. Albans*.  
RICHARD PECK, Rector of Calvary Church, *Berkshire*.  
JOHN A. HICKS, Rector of Trinity Church, *Rutland*.  
LOUIS McDONALD, Rector of Trinity Church, *Shelburn*.  
JAMES SABINE, Rector of Christ Church, *Bethel*.  
WILLIAM HORTON, Rector of St. Paul's Church, *Windsor*.  
ANSON B. HARD, Rector of Grace Church, *Sheldon*.  
WILLIAM S. PERKINS, Rector of St. James' Church, *Arlington*.  
S. A. CRANE, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, *Middlebury*.

## LAY DELEGATES.

TRUMAN PURDY,	Zion Church,	<i>Manchester.</i>
JESSE HARD,	"	"
HIRAM FRENCH,	"	"
ARTEMAS ROBBINS,	Immanuel Church,	<i>Bellows' Falls.</i>
JOHN ATKINSON,	"	"
M. S. BUCKLAND,	"	"
A. THOMPSON,	St. Paul's Church,	<i>Burlington.</i>
TIMO. FOLLETT,	"	"
JUSTUS BURDICK,	"	"
CALIF MONROE,	St. Paul's Church,	<i>Wells.</i>
JOHN RICHARDSON,	Union Church,	<i>St. Albans.</i>
BENJAMIN RICHARDSON,	"	"
ALFRED WHEELER,	Trinity Church,	<i>Fairfield.</i>
LYMAN HAWLEY,	"	"
JEPHTHA BRADLEY,	"	"
ISAAC J. POTTER,	Grace Church,	<i>Sheldon.</i>
FRA. BRADBURY,	St. Paul's Church,	<i>Vergennes.</i>
PORTER HOWE,	Trinity Church,	<i>Rutland.</i>
LUCIUS M. PURDY,	"	"
JOHN T. SABINE,	Christ Church,	<i>Bethel.</i>
JESSE LULL,	St. Paul's Church,	<i>Windsor.</i>
SIMEON IDE,	"	"
NOBLE HARD,	St. James' Church,	<i>Arlington.</i>
JOEL DOOLITTLE,	St. Stephen's Church,	<i>Middlebury.</i>
GEORGE CLEAVELAND,	"	"
CALVIN C. WALLER,	"	"
TIMOTHY MARSHALL,	St. John's Church,	<i>Poultney.</i>
AARON LEWIS,	"	"
DANIEL FITCH,	Trinity Church,	<i>Pawlet.</i>
JAMES COOK,	"	"
ASHBEL DICKINSON,	Christ Church,	<i>Guilford.</i>
THOMAS PRENTISS,	St. John's Church,	<i>Perkinsville.</i>

## FIFTH ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE STATE OF VERMONT.

"If at any time a Bishop is to be elected by this Convention, the Secretary, by order of the President or Standing Committee, shall write to the Minister or one of the Wardens of each Church,

at least six weeks before the election is to take place, and give notice of the time and place appointed for such election, and request that Delegates may attend the Convention for the purpose; and in every such election the Convention shall vote in distinct orders—the Clerical order shall make a nomination by ballot, and a majority of the Lay Delegates shall approve the appointment, before the person shall be considered elected.”

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In the Address of Bishop Griswold to the Convention of the Eastern Diocese held in Trinity Church, Boston, September 26th, 1832, there is not much which has particular reference to the Church in Vermont. What of that character it contains is here inserted:

“In my late visit in those parts, I preached at Bellows Falls and Windsor in Vermont, but I judged it most suitable to decline administering confirmation, for which some in the latter place were prepared.”

“The Rev. Dr. Hopkins has been elected to the Episcopate of Vermont, and we are likely soon to suffer the great loss of his removal from this State; but we ought humbly to trust that He who governs all things will overrule it to the more general good of His Church.”

“As I have resigned the jurisdiction of Vermont, and that State is now become a separate Diocese, it will be sufficient to state, that I leave it in great prosperity. Eighteen years ago they had but one, or at most two officiating clergymen: now they have twelve or more. They then had not one church edifice, properly their own: now they have twelve new ones which are consecrated, and five or six more which are built or in building. Then, if I recollect aright, they had three organized parishes: in their late Convention, twenty-four were represented. Thousands of dollars they have in that time expended in obtaining possession of the lands which belong to this Church: now as we hope, the business is settled, and those expensive litigations at an end.”

“To the number of candidates for Holy Orders have been added, J. Hamilton Parker, Thomas Robinson Hunter, Francis Peck, Henry Bulfinch, John T. Sabine, Nathaniel H. Munroe, Henry Water-

man, Joseph H. Dor, Jun., Darius Barker, Stephen C. Millet, Edward C. Ball, and Samuel Moody Emery : with two or three more, who, I am told, are by the Standing Committee received, but their Testimonials not yet given to me."

"The Rev. Matthias Munroe has been ordained Priest, and John Batchelder, Erasmus D'Wolfe, Joseph M. Brown, Mark Anthony, D'Wolfe Howe, Ephraim Munroe, George Munroe, George V. C. Eastman, Jacob Pierson, Samuel M'Burney, Samuel B. Babcock, and Lucius M. Purdy, have been admitted to the order of Deacons. The Rev. Isaac Peck, Alonzo Potter, Benjamin C. Cutler, have taken letters dismissory to the Diocese of New-York. The Rev. Mr. Pierson is officiating at Guilford, in Vermont, and the Rev. Mr. Purdy has gone to Connecticut ; but neither of these two is dismissed from this Diocese. Through the Lord's goodness, none of our clergymen have been removed by death.

"It is said of the Apostle John that the experience of a long life and still more the teaching of the Divine Spirit, had so convinced him of the excellence of charity, and the necessity of Christians' loving each other, that in his latter years, this was the constant theme of his preaching and exhortation. I can truly say that my own experience has led to the same conviction ; and that such is the teaching of the Holy Ghost, as recorded in the Sacred Scriptures, none who read them can doubt. Loving our Christian brethren is the best evidence 'that we have passed from death unto life ;' this indeed is the perfection of all morality and religion ; even the fulfilling of the whole law. Without this charity, our faith and works of zeal are nothing. The worst enemies of the Church are they who disturb its peace, and the greatest obstacles to Christian love are bigotry and party spirit. The Church to which we belong is by nothing more distinguished than by its spirit of liberality, truly so called, and the sentiments of union and love which it so uniformly inculcates. None can be truly her children, nor deserve the name of Christian, who do not follow after that charity which is the bond of perfectness."

"We of the Clergy, who profess to be ministers of Christ, and to act in the name and behalf of Him, who was so distinguished by meekness and love, are especially, and above all, under the most sacred and solemn obligations, 'to maintain and set forward, as



much as lieth in us, quietness, peace and love, among all Christian people and especially among them' with whom we are particularly connected."

"If we are deficient in this, we are faithful in nothing. And in this, my brethren beloved in the Lord, there are none, who preach the gospel of the blessed Redeemer, that have an easier or more pleasing task than us, the Clergy of this Diocese. The Laity—the people of our parishes, are generally and remarkably disposed to union and peace. One of the most encouraging circumstances in the state of this Diocese, and for which we ought daily to bless God, is the evident, and, I think increasing disposition to harmony and love. There is also, in my judgment, evidently among our population increasing desire to hear the pure Gospel of Christ preached in sincere love: to hear the doctrines of the Cross—the momentous words of eternal life. And certainly it would be doing injustice to our clergy to suppose that such a change is gradually taking place without their agency and co-operation. Union and good feeling have generally and very much prevailed now for more than twenty years among all our churches; and there is, I am fully persuaded, not only an increasing willingness in hearing, but also an increasing fidelity in preaching the Gospel of salvation. Unhappily, there is before the public an appearance of discord among the Clergy of this State, much greater, as I believe, than actually exists; and if any are so wicked as to rejoice in the expectation of seeing us a divided Church, they will, I trust in God, be disappointed. We stand on a foundation too firm to be shaken by momentary gusts of passion. We have too much regard for the religion which we profess; for the Master whom we serve, and for the Church which we all love, to jeopard our souls for the vanities of life, or dishonor Christ by selfishness and pride. We will not forsake the ark of our safety; we will not like the raven fly to and fro while the floods continue; but like the dove, return with the olive branch to its bosom."

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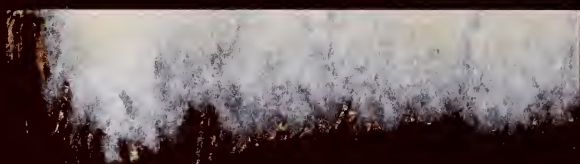
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